Residence Hall Fire Safety Regulations

Fire safety violations will result in a fine. Cost for any damages caused by fire safety violations will also be charged to the resident(s) and may result in conduct action. When violation is found, residents will be notified by email or written notice left in the room.

SMU Fire Safety Policy

Tampering with, damaging, or misusing fire safety equipment including, but not limited to, pull stations, smoke alarms, fire extinguishers, sprinkler systems, or exit signs; unauthorized burning of any material in any University building on or near University property; disregarding a fire alarm or failure to evacuate a building when a fire alarm is sounding; falsely initiating any report, alarm, warning, or threat of fire, explosion, or other emergency; obstruction of fire escapes, corridors, or stairways is a violation of the University’s fire safety policy (see https://www.smu.edu/Policy/11-Risk-Management/11-7-Fire-Safety).

Students in violation of this policy may face student conduct sanctions, including, but not limited to, Educational Sanctions, fines, or removal from Residence Halls (if applicable). Any of these violations could also be investigated and sanctioned by the Authority Having Jurisdiction. Sanctions referred to a municipal judge may include a fine up to $2,000.

Prohibited Behavior

- Smoking and/or evidence of smoking in the building or within 25 feet of a building. This includes e-cigarettes or vaping type devices.
- Any form or source of an open flame in the building Possessing flammable/combustible liquids or gases
- Possessing chemicals other than cleaning supplies

**ELECTRICAL**

- Surge Protectors with a reset switch plugged directly into the wall – 3-prong type only
- Appliances with an outlet or USB ports; (i.e. lamps, vanity mirrors, etc.)
- UL-approved electrical devices that meet other fire safety standards
- Refrigerators plugged directly into a wall outlet

**PERSONAL APPLIANCES**

- Items listed in Green boxes are permitted
- Items listed in Yellow boxes permitted with exceptions
- Items listed in Red boxes are NOT PERMITTED in residence halls

- Power or plug-in tools cannot be used in the room
- If needed, space heaters provided by SMU (must be unplugged when not in the room)
- Battery backup (universal power) devices less than 600 watts

- Extension cords
- Surge protector or extension cord plugged into a surge protector or extension cord ("daisy chain" fashion)
- Extension cords with multi-plug outlets
- Any non UL-approved electrical devices
- Fog or smoke machines
- Gasoline powered equipment (i.e. generator)
- Refrigerators plugged directly into a wall outlet

**LAMPS/LIGHTING**

- Items listed in Green boxes are permitted
- Items listed in Yellow boxes permitted with exceptions
- Items listed in Red boxes are NOT PERMITTED in residence halls

- UL-approved appliances that meet other fire safety standards
- Appliances with heating elements must be unplugged when not in use • clothes irons • curling irons • hair straighteners • curlers • garment steamers • and the like

**COOKING/KITCHEN**

- UL-approved appliances that meet other fire safety standards
- Pod-style coffee makers (may remain plugged in)
- Appliances must be attended when in use and those with heating elements (no open coils) must be unplugged when not in use • Coffee pots • Electric kettles
- 1 Refrigerator per bedroom (not more than 3.1 cubic feet) and must be plugged directly into a wall outlet

- Unattended cooking such as when using the residence hall community microwave
- Microwaves
- Broilers, electric skillets, grills (charcoal, gas and cooking), woks
- George Foreman grills and the like
- Slow cookers/rice cookers
- Toaster ovens/toasters
- Hot plates/induction plates
- Any cooking device with open coils
- Any non UL-approved appliances

**DECORATING THE ROOM**

- Decorations may not be hung on a wall or overhang in student rooms
- Decorations may not cover more than 30” of wall space
- Decorations may not cover more than 100” per student
- Decorations may not obstruct light fixtures, sprinklers, or vents
- Decorations may not project away from the walls, be suspended in the air, or be hung from the ceiling (for example: fish nets, flags, parachutes, posters, wires, tent-like structures)
- Decorations cannot be on or within 25 feet of a student
- Decorations may not obstruct water pipes, sprinkler heads, or fire flow
- Decorations may not be hung from support structures or from any wall
- Decorations may not be hung in a student room and cannot hinder exit from the room
- Decorations may not contain candles, batteries, or other flammable materials
- Decorations may not be hung from student fixtures
- Decorations may not be hung from supports or ceilings
- Decorations may not be hung from ceilings or beams

**FREE STANDING AIR FRESHENERS**

- Items listed in Red boxes are NOT PERMITTED

- Free-standing air fresheners or potpourri, such as Glade® Sense & Spray
- Canned air-fresheners, such as Febreeze®
- Electric wax warmers, such as Sensy®
- Air purifiers or humidifiers
- Reed diffuser or plug-in air fresheners

- Beads or curtains may be hung over closet doorways only with tension rods
- Artificial trees under 3’ or live trees under 18”. Trees may not have lights on them.
- Decorations may be hung using the approved method for a specific residence hall so long as they are flush to the wall and do not cover more than 10% of the wall
- Decorations may be hung with white sticky tack or painter's tape, not 3M™ strips. Additional approved methods vary by residence hall and may be found on our website
- Access to windows may not be blocked. Anything placed in front of the window must be easily movable in the event of an emergency (i.e., no large furniture)

**INFORMATION ABOUT UL CERTIFICATION**

- https://ul-certification.com/
Residence Hall Fire Safety Regulations: Ensuring Resident Safety

At Southern Methodist University (SMU), Residence Life & Student Housing (RLSH) works closely with SMU Police and Office of Risk Management and the University Park Fire Marshal to educate residents about fire prevention. All students residing in residence halls are expected to abide by the fire safety regulations and policies to better ensure the safety of the entire residential community. The list of violations is subject to change at any time and will be communicated by official postings in the residence halls.

All resident rooms are inspected for safety and maintenance at least once per semester by University staff and/or the University Park Fire Marshal. The purpose of inspections is to enhance safety of all residents, assess need for repairs and to enforce residence hall policies, including fire safety regulations. Residents will be notified of violations via email or written notice left in the room. Prohibited items will be confiscated by the Residential Community Director and/or designated staff during inspections. Residents are responsible for violations in their rooms, even if they are not directly responsible for the prohibited item or condition leading to the violation. Prohibited items may be a violation, even if not in use.

Five Easy Ways to Avoid a Fire Safety Fine

1. The number one way to avoid a fine and the easiest to do--unplug appliances with heating elements (hair straightener, iron, coffee pot) while not in use

2. Not enough light in the room? Use compact fluorescent (CF) or LED bulbs in your lamps

3. Use only a 3-prong surge protector with an on-off switch

4. Need to freshen the air? Use only approved air fresheners

5. Read and follow the fire safety regulations, and ask questions if you’re not sure about something!

Do You Know...

How to Prevent a Fire?

How to Avoid a Fire Safety Fine?

Start Here! Read the policies and learn what is allowed & what is not