

ELECTRICAL

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

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)



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

LAMPS/LIGHTING

Fluorescent or LED bulbs
Battery-operated LED candles or string lights
Lamp Lights with an outlet
UL-approved lights that meet other fire safety standards

Strands of lights (miniature style) may not be connected together and may not be hung around doors or touch the metal part of the bed, LED battery operate lights preferred

Candles / incense
Lava and oil lamps, no flammable liquids of any kind
Halogen or incandescent bulbs
Any non UL approved lights

UL-approved personal 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

Any non UL-approved personal appliances

Information about UL Certification:
<https://ul-certification.com/>

PERSONAL APPLIANCES

COOKING/KITCHEN

UL-approved appliances that meet other fire safety standards
Pod-style coffee makers (may remain plugged in)

Appliances permitted in the Kitchen area must be attended when in use.
Appliances with heating elements (no open coils) must be unplugged when not in use

- Coffee pots, electric kettles
- Microwave oven
- Toaster or toaster oven
- Slow cookers, rice cookers and the like
- Electric skillet and woks

Unattended cooking
Additional refrigerators
Grills (charcoal, gas and cooking)
Deep fryer appliances such as “Fry Daddy”
George Foreman grills and the like
Any cooking device with open coils
Any non UL-approved appliances

DECORATING THE ROOM

Free-standing air fresheners or potpourri, such as Glade® Sense & Spray
Canned air-fresheners, such as Febreze®
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 painters tape, not 3M™ strips. Additional approved methods vary by residence hall and may be found on our website at www.smu.edu/housing
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)

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 hung from a soffit or overhang in a student room and cannot hinder exit from the room
Any wiring running through ceiling or hard wiring. Wiring cannot touch metal
Attachments near or on sprinkler heads (there must be an 18” clearance around the head) or water pipes
Blocking flow of water from sprinkler heads

Apartment Halls 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



Apartment Hall Fire Safety

Apartment Halls Fire Safety Contact Information

SMU Fire and Emergency Management Coordinator
Office of Risk Management
214-768-1550

Questions, Comments, Suggestions of Feedback on Fire Safety?
Email: housing@smu.edu
Call Residence Life & Student Housing 214-768-2407
RLSH Website: smu.edu/housing

Photos by Hillsman Jackson, Reneé Gibson ©SMU
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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

Residence Hall Fire Safety Regulations: Ensuring Resident Safety

At Southern Methodist University (SMU), Residence Life & Student Housing (RLSH) works closely with SMU Police and the 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 canned or freestanding air fresheners**
- 5 **Read and follow the fire safety regulations, and ask questions if you're not sure about something!**