

## Don't Become a Statistic

Firefighters respond to an average of 3,810 fires in college residence halls and Greek housing each year. Since 2000, campus fires have resulted in 132 fatalities and millions of dollars in property damage. According to FEMA, the vast majority of these fires could have been prevented through awareness and education.

### Know what to do if there's a fire...

1. Pull the fire alarm, if possible.
2. Call 911 and Campus Safety & Security to report the situation.
3. Remain low if encountering smoke.
4. Evacuate the building using your closest exit and close all doors behind you.
5. DO NOT use elevators during evacuation!



### Don't Forget!

Hands-on fire extinguisher training is **mandatory** for individuals living in a University apartment.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### Q: Why do we have residential fire & life safety checks?

A: Residential halls and apartments are a communal setting, and thus need to have rules in place to ensure that everyone is safe and comfortable. The University has identified items and behaviors that are dangerous to the community, and the checks allow staff members to identify violations, and work with students to address them.

### Q: Who performs the checks?

A: All checks are performed by Residence Life, Campus Safety & Security and/or Environmental Health & Safety staff.

### Q: When do these checks happen?

A: Checks will occur on a monthly basis. The New York State Office of Fire Prevention & Control also will inspect residential spaces once a year.

### Q: What happens if a violation is found?

A: If a violation is found, you may be subject to fines, and the item in violation may be confiscated. Repeat and serious violations are also subject to a Dean of Student Inquiry.

### Q: My violation has been there since the previous check and no one has said anything. Why am I being fined now?

A: Sometimes violations are missed during checks. It is unfortunate, but it does happen, and it does not exempt you from being fined when the violation is discovered.

### More Questions?

Ask your RA, RD or EH&S Department (315-268-2362).



## APARTMENT FIRE & LIFE SAFETY GUIDE

### Tips for a Successful Year Living in Campus Housing

*This guide serves as an important reference for all students living in campus housing. The enclosed guidelines and policies are designed to reduce the risk of fire and to help ensure you are maintaining a safe and compliant living environment. Please review the contents and take time to ensure that your personal belongings, room furnishings and room set-up follow the guidelines outlined in this brochure.*



# Can I have this in my Clarkson University apartment ?

## Electrical Equipment



**NO**  
Extension  
cords



Multi-plug  
unless  
protected



Surge protected  
power strip



**No "Daisy chaining":**  
Do not plug a power strip into  
another power strip. Instead,  
purchase one with a longer cord.



Bulbs exceeding  
max listed wattage



Lamps w/ no shade;  
Bulbs extending  
beyond shade



Cords creating  
tripping hazards  
Or entanglement

## Decorations



Candles & incense  
(even if not burned)  
Anywhere on campus



String lights in contact  
w/ combustibles  
over doorways



Window coverings  
not meeting  
NFPA standards



Curtains, tapestries or other materials  
hanging from ceiling or sprinkler pipe



Excessive door/  
wall decorations

**20% Rule:** No more than 20% of a wall or door area may be covered in combustible materials such as posters and decorations.

## Consequences for Non-compliance

### \$50 Fine & Unauthorized Items Confiscated

- Unburned candle or incense
- Obstructed egress
- Door unable to fully open - 90 degrees
- Extension cord or multi plug in use
- Combustibles too close to heat source
- Storage in hallway, stairway or landing
- Fire extinguisher obstructed or moved
- Unsanitary conditions - excessive trash
- Lamps with excessive wattage for fixture

### \$100 Fine & Unauthorized Items Confiscated

- Burned candle or incense
- Dirty stove or oven
- Tampering with a fire door, fire extinguisher
- Signage removal or possession of
- Grill storage indoors (charcoal-propane)
- Failure to vacate during alarm activation

### \$250 Fine, Assignment & Dean Referral

- Tampering w/ CO, fire or smoke detector
- Smoking or Vaping inside a building
- Presence of explosives/incendiary device
- Intentional fire alarm activation
- Failure to report a fire

## Prohibited Items

### These items cannot be stored or used in any campus living space:

- Fuel storage indoors (charcoal-propane)
- Flammable liquids
- Single bladed knives
- Fireworks
- Controlled substance
- Space heaters
- Window A/C
- Firearms
- Smoking or vaping within 30 ft. from building

## Approved Items

### Feel free to bring and use these items in your campus living space:

- TV
- DVD player
- Freestanding fan
- Game system
- Computer
- Small stereo
- Non-halogen lamp
- Iron with auto shut-off
- Wax melt warmers

## Cooking Appliances



Dirty  
stove/oven



Grills inside  
(must be at least 10  
feet from building)



Crockpots  
(small appliances used  
in kitchen area only)



Microwave



Refrigerator  
(under 5 cu ft.)



Coffee maker  
(with auto shut-off)

Microwaves and refrigerators must be plugged directly into wall electrical outlet.

## Storage



Items stored in  
hallway/stairwell



Excessive trash/  
combustible waste



Blocking/covering  
emergency equip



Storage too close -  
ceiling & sprinkler  
( must maintain 24" )  
( Electrical panel 36" )



Must maintain  
unobstructed path  
Of egress In all areas



Items stored  
behind door  
( Must open  
90 degrees )

**NOTICE:** This document is not a comprehensive listing of all health and safety violations, prohibited items and consequences for non-compliance. Please refer to our website (<https://intranet.clarkson.edu/administrative/dehs>) or ask your RA if unsure about a policy or item.