

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!



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).



RESIDENCE HALL 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 dorm room?

Electrical Equipment



NO Extension cords



Multi-plug unless protected



Surge protected power strip with a reset

OK



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)



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
- String lights improper installation
- Storage in hallway, stairway or landing
- Sprinkler system pipe - item attached to pipe
- Unsanitary conditions - excessive trash
- Microwave/fridge not plugged into wall outlet

\$100 Fine & Unauthorized Items Confiscated

- Burned candle or incense
- Signage removal/possession of
- Tampering with a fire door, fire extinguisher or emergency lighting
- Unauthorized cooking or cooking appliances
- 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 residence hall space:

- Fuel storage indoors
- Cooking appliances
- Flammable liquids (i.e. gas, lighter fluid)
- Fire arms
- Space heaters
- Window a/c
- Smoking (including vaping) within 30 ft. from building

Approved Items

Feel free to bring and use these items in your residence hall space:

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

Appliances Allowed in Dorm



Toasters & toaster ovens



NO Small Cooking appliances



Grills (must be at least 10 feet from building)



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 to ceiling & sprinkler (must maintain 24")



Obstructed egress from room/exit



Items stored behind door

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.