

## **ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES**

**Section:** Residence Halls

**Policy:** In order to provide safe living environments, certain electrical appliances are prohibited in the residence halls.

**Purpose:** The purpose of this policy is to offer guidelines regarding the use of electrical appliances in the residence halls.

**Scope:** This policy applies to all live-in staff members, residents and guests of University Housing.

**Background:** This policy has been created to ensure the safe use of appliances in the residence halls. Residence halls have limits on the capabilities of their electrical systems. Overloading these systems can present fire and safety hazards. Furthermore, electrical appliances which have exposed heating elements are dangerous. The following guidelines shall govern the use of electrical appliances, outlets and extension cords in residence hall rooms.

**Procedure:**

- I. Any electrical appliance with an exposed heating element is prohibited.
- II. Extension cords may be used under the following conditions:
  - A. Only one extension cord is permitted to connect an appliance with an electrical outlet. Extension cords may not be used in a series.
  - B. Only properly grounded extension cords may be used with appliances requiring grounding.
  - C. Multiple-outlet adapter "strips" with built-in circuit breakers are recommended when the desired number of outlets exceeds the number of available outlets in the student's room.
- III. Resident-owned air conditioners and space heaters are not permitted.
- IV. Resident-owned refrigerators (maximum size 4.0 cubic ft.) are allowed in residence hall rooms provided they do not exceed the following electrical requirement: They operate at 118 volts (plus or minus 5 percent), 60 Hz, and do not draw more than 1.5 amps or 180 watts of power.
- V. Appliances and electrical devices, such as radios, microwaves (1.0 cubic ft. and 700 watts), stereos, desk lamps, computers, TVs and electric blankets are permitted, provided the total power requirements do not overload the room's electrical system.
- VI. Use of halogen light bulbs is not permitted due to the danger of fire associated with these types of bulbs.
- VII. All electrical equipment and cords must be kept in safe operating condition and must be compliant with UL standards.
- VIII. Outside antennas and satellite dishes are prohibited.

- IX. Irons may be used only with ironing boards.
- X. Cooking in residence hall rooms is limited to the following appliances, which may only be used for their intended purposes: sealed unit coffee makers and popcorn poppers, hot/crock pots, toasters, toaster ovens, and compact microwave ovens (1.0 cubic feet maximum capacity and 700 watt maximum power). Students should not leave items unattended while cooking.
- XI. The use of Energy Star appliances and compact fluorescent bulbs is recommended.
- XII. Residents found in violation of this policy will be documented and may be referred through a student conduct process.

Revised: June, 2015