

APPLIANCES AND ELECTRICAL DEVICES

Section: Residence Halls

Policy: In order to maintain safe living environments, certain appliances and electrical devices are prohibited in the residence halls.

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

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

Background: This policy has been created to ensure the safe use of appliances and electrical devices 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 that have exposed heating elements are dangerous. The following guidelines shall govern the use of appliances and electrical devices, outlets and extension cords in University Housing facilities.

Procedure:

- I. The use of Energy Star appliances and LED bulbs is recommended.
- II. Surge protectors and extension cords may be used under the following conditions:
 - A. Surge protectors should be plugged directly into the wall.
 - B. Only one extension cord is permitted to connect an appliance with an electrical outlet. Extension cords may not be used in a series.
 - C. Only properly grounded extension cords may be used with appliances requiring grounding.
 - D. 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 room.
- III. 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%), 60 Hz, and do not draw more than 1.5 amps or 180 watts of power.

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.
- IV. Any electrical appliance with an exposed heating element is prohibited.
- V. Resident-owned air conditioners and space heaters are prohibited.
- VI. Halogen light bulbs are prohibited due to the danger of fire associated with these types of bulbs.

- VII. Plug-in air fresheners are potential fire hazards and are prohibited.
- VIII. All appliances and electrical devices, including cords, must be kept in safe operating condition and must be compliant with UL standards.
- IX. Outside antennas and satellite dishes are prohibited.
- X. Irons may be used only with ironing boards.

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Revised and approved by management team: August 2, 2022

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