

Ensuring Resident Safety

At Southern Methodist University (SMU), Residence Life and Student Housing (RLSH) works closely with Risk Management and the University Park Fire Marshal to educate residents about fire prevention. All students residing in all residence halls, including apartment 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.

Safety & Maintenance Inspections

All resident apartments 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 policies including fire safety regulations. An official notice will be left in the apartment notifying residents of any violations. Prohibited items will be confiscated by the Residence Community Director and/or designated staff during inspections. Residents are responsible for violations in their apartment, 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*.



Permitted Items

Power Strips

- Power Strip with a Surge Protector reset switch plugged directly into wall – 3-prong type only
- 3-Pronged Heavy Duty Extension Cord with one outlet and one appliance plugged directly into wall

Lamps/Lighting

- Lamps with incandescent or compact fluorescent bulbs
- Lamps with metal or glass shades
- Lava lamps

Electric Appliances

- UL-approved appliances that meet other fire safety standards
- In extreme circumstances, space heaters provided by SMU (must be unplugged when unattended)

Cooking Appliances Permitted in the Kitchen Area

- Microwaves
- Broilers, electric skillets, and woks
- Toasters and toaster ovens
- Coffee Pots or Hot Pot without open coils, unplugged when not in use

Decorating The Room

- Beads or curtains hanging over closet doorways only with tension rods
- Posters and pictures may be hung using the approved method for a specific residence hall so long as pictures/posters are flush to the wall and do not cover more than 25% of the wall
- Approved methods to hang posters include using blue painter's tape and white sticky tack. Additional approved methods vary by residence hall and may be found on our website at www.smu.edu/housing.

Fire Safety Violations

Punishable by Law

These violations will be investigated and sanctioned by the University Park Fire Department. In addition, residents are sanctioned by the SMU Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards. SMU sanctions may include a \$250 fine and removal from the Residence Halls.

- Discharging or removing a fire extinguisher
- Fireworks of any type
- Explosives
- Tampering with control valves
- Breaking sprinkler head(s)
- Removing or covering smoke/heat detectors
- Disabling fire suppression system
- Disabling fire alarm system
- Arson
- Tampering with or damaging the following: fire exit lights, fire exit signs, pull stations, horns, strobes, notification devices, fire extinguishers, fire exit doors
- Obstructing or locking fire exit doors
- Failure to evacuate when the fire alarm sounds

For more information about fire safety at SMU contact:

**SMU Fire Inspector
Office of Risk Management,
Environmental Health and Safety
214-768-4203**

Questions, comments, suggestions or feedback on Fire Safety?

Call the Residence Community Director

Email safety@smu.edu

**Call Residence Life & Student Housing,
214-768-2407**

RLSH Website <http://smu.edu/housing>

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Apartment Halls Fire Safety Regulations

Residence Life & Student Housing





When A Violation Occurs

Fire safety violations result in a minimum of a \$150 fine. Additional violations found on the same date will increase the fine by \$50 per violation up to \$250. Cost for any damages caused by fire safety violations will also be charged to the resident(s) and may result in conduct action.

1. When a violation is found, a notice will be left for the resident(s).
2. Residents have 72 hours to discuss responsibility with their Residence Community Director.
3. If resident(s) do not contact the Residence Community Director within 72 hours, the fine will be divided equally between roommates and charged to the student accounts.
4. Residents are encouraged to complete a Fire Safety Class and/or participate in an educational option to reduce the fines.

Residents who have questions about fire safety or who have a prohibited item are responsible for discussing it with their Residence Community Director immediately. The Residence Community Director will store any prohibited items if the resident brings it to his/her attention prior to Safety and Maintenance Inspections.



Prohibited Items

Extension Cords

- 2-Pronged extension cords
- Surge protector or extension cord plugged into a surge protector
- Extension cord plugged into extension cord
- Non-heavy duty extension cords
- Extension cords with multi-plug outlets
- Multi-plug outlets (including appliances with multiple outlets; lamps, vanity mirrors, etc.)

Electric Appliances

- Any form of a plug in air freshener or vaporizer
- Any appliance with an electrical outlet on it (i.e., it can be used as an extension cord)
- Fog or smoke machines
- Non-UL approved electrical devices
- Additional refrigerator
- Power tools



Lights/Lighting

- Halogen lamps
- Lights with an outlet
- Any lamp with plastic shades, including but not limited to "Octopus" lamps
- Any lamp with paper shades
- Any non UL-approved lights

Flammable Items

- Candles / incense
- All flammable / combustible liquids
- Gasoline powered equipment
- Oil lamps
- Chemicals (other than cleaning supplies)
- Fireworks
- Explosives / gun powder
- Any form or source of an open flame
- Trees / Christmas trees



Cooking Appliances

- Open coiled cooking devices
- Hot plates
- Grills (charcoal and propane)
- Deep fryer appliances such as "Fry Daddy"

Wiring & Sprinkler Heads

- Any additional hard wiring
- Speaker wires or other wiring running through ceiling
- Attachments near or on sprinkler heads or water pipes
- Wires (including strings of lights or cords) cannot touch metal (including any part of the bed)
- Blocking flow of water from sprinkler heads



Prohibited Behaviors

Decorating The Room

- Decorations may not project away from the walls, may not be suspended in the air, and may not be hung from the ceiling (for example: fish nets, flags, parachutes, posters, wires, tent-like structures)
- Access to a window may not be blocked (for example: do not place furniture in front of window)
- No more than 25% of wall surface can be covered with flammable or combustible material
- Decorative lights, wires, beads or other items cannot be on or hung from a soffit or overhang in a student room and cannot hinder exit from the room or apartment
- Holiday lights hung around windows and/or doors and/or more than three strands connected

Other Prohibited Behaviors

- Smoking and/or evidence of smoking
- Leaving any appliance with a heating unit (i.e., clothes irons, curling irons, hair straighteners, curlers, or coffee pots) left plugged in and unattended
- Placing items closer than 18" to the ceiling
- Failure to exit during a fire alarm
- Unattended cooking
- Leaving a cooking appliance plugged in when not in use

