

Fire, Health, and Safety Regulations

SUNY New Paltz makes a concerted effort to comply with the International Fire Code, as well as health & safety regulations to maintain a safe living environment for students residing in residence life housing. Electrical appliances and additional items or actions which may be considered hazardous by the Department of Residence Life and/ or the Office of Emergency Management are specifically prohibited. Students are responsible for upholding the following regulations:

- All electronics must be listed by the nationally recognized testing laboratories, UL (Underwriters Laboratories) or ETL (Electrical Testing Laboratories).
- Personal belongings and/or college issued furniture may not block room egress or door swing.
- Residents are responsible for maintaining an adequate level of cleanliness in the room, especially on the floor, to prevent pests and to allow an unobstructed means of egress.
- No decorations or signs shall be displayed on fire doors, in stairwells, or on exits. Decorative materials may not hang down over doorway openings, or cover/obstruct any life safety device. This includes "EXIT" signs, emergency lights, smoke detectors, heat detectors, manual pull stations, sprinklers, fire extinguishers, AEDs, electrical panels, radiators, etc.
- Residents can decorate their rooms and suites; however, students will be assessed damage fees if the decorations, or methods used to decorate cause damage to any part of the room, furniture and/or microfridge provided by the school, or require SUNY New Paltz staff to remove them. Furthermore, the following guidelines must be strictly followed:
 - No decorative material(s) shall be placed over or attached to any sprinkler piping, sprinkler head, smoke detectors, heat detectors, radiator vents, light bulbs or lighting fixtures under any circumstances.
 - Residents are prohibited from attaching or hanging any item to the ceiling of the room or suite.
 - All decorations shall be at least 2 feet from the ceiling. In rooms that have tack strips installed on the walls, items may not be placed above the tack strip line.
 - The number of decorative material(s) shall not exceed 20% of the total area of the walls. Flags, tapestries, etc., are permitted if they do not exceed 36 inches in any direction and are not hung on the wall directly over a bed. Hanging a 36-inch-long flag or tapestry will occupy 20% of the wall it is attached to. No other decorations would be permitted.
 - Decorations shall not exceed 10% of the inside or outside of the room door or suite door.
 - All residence hall rooms have an Evacuation Diagram attached to the inside part of the room door. **Students may not display, hang or install anything in a manner that obstructs the view of, or damages their room door's Evacuation Diagram under any circumstances.**
- Extension cords are not permitted. Students may only have surge protectors or power strips that have a **reset button** and must listed by the nationally recognized testing laboratories, UL (Underwriters Laboratories) or ETL (Electrical Testing Laboratories)
- The college provides one microfridge (a refrigerator and microwave connected to each other) per room in corridor style buildings and within Lenape Hall. Each suite within Ashokan, Awosting, Minnewaska, Mohonk and Shawangunk has a microwave in the suite/common area, and we added a refrigerator in each bedroom within the suite this summer. **Students are not permitted to bring their own microfridges, nor standalone microwaves.** Should they feel they need one, students are permitted to bring a cube

model refrigerator that is **no larger than 3.1 cubic feet**. **PLEASE NOTE:** Microfridges and refrigerators must be plugged directly into a wall outlet. They cannot be plugged into a power strip or outlet extender under any circumstances.

- Curtains must be flame resistant. Proof that the curtain is made of inherently flame-resistant materials or treated with flame retardant and tested to Class A flame rating, must be attached to the curtains.
- Fans are permitted but must not be placed in the window or up against window screens. Damage to screens or window tracks will result in window/screen replacement and associated charges.
- All permitted items with a sharp edge must be safely stored away when not in use.

The following items are not permitted in residence hall rooms or suites...

▪ KITCHEN APPLIANCES

- Microwaves
- Hot Plates
- Hot Pots
- Portable Ranges
- Popcorn makers
- Electric Pots/Pans/Woks
- Fondue Pot/Fountains
- George Foreman style grills
- Microfridges or refrigerators larger than 3 cubic feet
- Coffee makers/electric kettles with exposed heating elements
- Crock pots, Instant Pots, and other electronic pressure cookers
- Air-fryers
- Rice Cookers
- Toaster Ovens
- Toasters
- Griddles

▪ LAMPS

- Lamps with plastic or cloth lamp shades/covers.
- Lamps with exposed bulb
- Halogen lamps or bulbs
- Clip-On Lamps are permitted ONLY if they use LED lights. Other clip-on lamps are not permitted.
- Sun Lamps
- Lava Lamps

▪ EXTENSION CORDS AND OUTLET ADAPTERS

- Power splitter cables
- Outlet extender/adaptor
- Multiplug adapters
- Extension cords

▪ OTHER PROHIBITED ELECTRONICS

- Hoverboards
- Air Conditioners
- Electric heating pads. Non-electric pads such as microwaveable pads are permitted.
- Appliances in need of electrical repair or which may be considered hazardous.
- Vehicles with internal combustion or electric engines to include motorcycles, motorized skateboards, hoverboards, motorbikes, etc.
- Electric Blankets
- Space Heaters

▪ DECORATIONS

- Fake spider webs
- Shag or high-pile rugs
- Straw decorations
- Crepe paper decor
- Metallic or Mylar decor
- Full length door covering
- Doormats cannot be used outside the room, nor inside the room or bathroom as they are a slip, trip and/or falling hazard.
- Real Christmas trees
- Artificial trees, wreaths or other artificial vegetation without certification of fire resistance. Artificial vegetation with certification of fire resistance must not exceed three feet.
- More than 2 lengths of decorative lights strung together.
- Fake snow
- Corn
- Hay
- Tinsel
- Garland
- Plastic door decor

▪ FLAME PRODUCING & FLAMMABLE ITEMS/LIQUIDS

- Oil lamps
- Grills of any type or size
- Charcoal for grilling
- Candles with a wick (burnt or unburnt)
- Incense (burnt or unburnt) or incense accessories, including sage or other burnable products.
- Butane/lighter fluid /gasoline
- Torches, including culinary torches.
- Scented oil, wax or candle warmers of any kind
- Coals, including hookah coals. Hookahs that are free of coal residues may be stored in residence hall rooms.
- Art supplies consisting of flammable materials such as oil-based paints, stains, and paint thinner,
- Fireworks
- Scented plug-ins

aerosol paint cans, etc. These can be stored in lockers provided in the art building.

ALCOHOL/DRUG PARAPHERNALIA

- Water pipes, bongs, one-hitters, hypodermic syringes/needles not prescribed to them by a licensed physician.
- Any scale or smoking apparatus determined to be drug-use related.
- Funnels for drinking, kegs, decorative alcohol containers, including empty wine/beer bottles used for craft projects.

WEAPONS AND RECREATIONAL EQUIPMENT

- Weapons are prohibited in the Residence Halls, including but not limited to firearms, darts, electronic darts, stun guns, gravity knife, switchblade knives, pilum ballistic knives, metal knuckle knives, swords, cane swords, billy club/batons, blackjack, bludgeon, plastic knuckles, metal knuckles, nunchuka stick, sandbag, sandclub, wrist-brace type slingshot or slungshot, shuriken or "Kung Fu Star".
- In addition, we prohibit any knives, box cutters, BB, paint or air guns, archery equipment, and metal tipped darts.
- All permitted items with a sharp edge must be

safely stored away when not in use.

■ NON-COLLEGE ISSUED FURNITURE

- All non-college issued furniture is strictly prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to desks, dressers, mattresses, headboards, couches, upholstered or wooden chairs, fabric-covered folding chairs, bean bag chairs, air mattresses and other furniture items.
- Bungee chairs or small bookcases no larger than 36" Length x 24" Height x 12" Width/Depth may be approved as long as they are not blocking egress.
- Storage units with any fabric covering, such as dressers with fabric drawers, upholstered storage ottomans, etc.

■ OTHER PROHIBITED ITEMS

- Soldering equipment
- Cinder Blocks
- Power Tools
- Bed Risers
- Construction or wood working tools such as saws, hammers, drills, etc.
- Tapestries, flags, etc., exceeding 36".
- Taxidermy (This includes finished products as well as skins, tools and other items used for repairing, stuffing or mounting taxidermy).

The State of New York will occasionally instruct campuses to add items, especially new products, to the list of prohibited items if it is determined that they pose a health or fire hazard. Residence Life will inform students if this happens. At that point, any student in possession of such an item will need to remove it from the premises immediately.

Additionally, SUNY New Paltz reserves the right to have students remove from campus any item which is not listed but deemed to be a fire or health and safety hazard by the Department of Residence Life, the Office of Emergency Management or New York State Office of Fire Prevention and Control.

What if a prohibited appliance or item is found?

Residents will be Officially Requested to remove the item from the residence hall. Should the student fail to comply with the Official Request, the item will be confiscated, and the student will be subject to disciplinary action. Students will also be subject to disciplinary action for repeat offenses.

Prohibited items that do not pose a safety risk when not in use that have been confiscated by or returned to Residence Life Staff will be stored for no more than 72 hours. Stored items that are not claimed and removed from campus will be discarded. SUNY New Paltz shall bear no financial responsibility for discarded items.

Updated August 2023