Fire, Health, and Safety Regulations

SUNY New Paltz makes a concerted effort to comply with state fire, health, and 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 Environmental Health and Safety are specifically prohibited. Students are responsible for upholding the following regulations:

- All electronics must be UL approved.
- Personal belongings and/or college issued furniture may not block room egress.
- 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.
- All residents are prohibited from attaching 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 this tack strip line.
- No decorations or signs shall be displayed on fire doors, in stairwells, or on exits.
- The amount of decorative material(s) shall not exceed 10% of the wall or 5% of the door area on which it is placed.
- 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, etc.
- No decorative material(s) shall be placed and/or attached to any sprinkler piping, sprinkler head and/or light bulbs or lighting fixtures.
- Extension cords are not permitted. Students can have surge protectors or power strips and those must have a reset button.
- Microfridges are allowed as long as they are accompanied by a SafeT Sensor which is attached to the microwave part. Microfridges (with SafeT sensors included) can be rented or purchased from https://refrigeratorleasing.com/. Students may purchase microfridges from other companies or sites, but those who do so must also purchase a SafeT Sensor and attach it to the microwave part. To see an example of the same SafeT Sensor click here.
- Stand-alone microwaves are not permitted.
- 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.
- Curtains must be flame resistant. Proof that the curtain is made of flame resistant material (a label clearly stating such), must be attached to the curtains.
- Fans are permitted but must not be place in the window or up against window screens. Damage to screens or window tracks will result in window/screen replacement and associated charges.
- The following items are not permitted in residence halls...

**KITCHEN APPLIANCES**

- Microwaves
- Hot Pots
- Griddles
- Toaster Ovens
- George Foreman Grills
- Hot Plates
- Portable Ranges
- Toasters
- Rice Cookers
- Popcorn makers
- Fondue Pots/Fountains
- Electric Pots/Pans/Woks
- Coffee makers/ electric kettles with exposed heating elements
- Crock pots, Instant Pots, and other electronic pressure cookers
LAMPS
- Lamps with plastic or cloth lamp shades/covers.
- Lamps with exposed bulb
- Halogen lamps or bulbs
- Clip-On Lamps
- Sun Lamps
- Lava Lamps

EXTENSION CORDS AND OUTLET ADAPTERS
- Power splitter cables
- Extension cords
- Outlet extender/adapter

OTHER PROHIBITED ELECTRONICS
- Hoverboards
- Electric Blankets
- Air Conditioners
- Space Heaters
- Sound Amplifying Equipment
- Appliances in need of electrical repair or which may be considered hazardous

DECORATIONS
- Doormats
- Shag or high-pile rugs
- Straw decorations
- Crepe paper decor
- Metallic or Mylar decor
- Plastic door decor
- Full length door coverings
- Live Christmas trees
- Artificial trees or wreaths without proof of flame resistant materials
- More than 2 lengths of decorative lights strung together

FLAME PRODUCING & FLAMMABLE ITEMS/LIQUIDS
- Incense accessories
- Scented plug-ins
- Grills of any type
- Candles with a wick (burnt or unburnt)
- Incense (burnt or unburnt)
- Butane/lighter fluid/gasoline
- Torches, including culinary torches
- Scented oil, wax or candle warmers of any kind
- Art supplies consisting of flammable materials such as oil based paints, stains, and paint thinner, aerosol paint cans, etc. These can be stored in lockers provided in the art building.

ALCOHOL/DRUG PARAPHERNALIA
- Hookahs, 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, electronic dart or stun guns, gravity knife, switchblade knife, pilum ballistic knife, metal knuckle knife, cane sword, billy, blackjack, bludgeon, plastic knuckles, metal knuckles, chuka stick, sand bag, 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, metal tipped darts and hoverboards.

NON-COLLEGE ISSUED FURNITURE
- All non-college issued furniture is strictly prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to desks, dressers, mattresses, couches, upholstered or wooden chairs, fabric-covered folding chairs, bean bag chairs, and other furniture items. Bungee chairs or small bookcases no larger than 36”L x24”H x 12”D may be approved as long as they are not blocking egress.
- Storage units with any fabric covering, such as upholstered storage ottomans.

OTHER PROHIBITED ITEMS
- Cinder Blocks
- Power Tools
- Bed Risers
- Construction or wood working tools such as saws, hammers, drills, etc.
- Tapestries hung on the wall
- Taxidermy (This includes finished products as well as skins, tools and other items used for the 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 Environmental Health and Safety Office and/or the NYS Fire Marshall.

**What if an illegal appliance or item is found?**
Residents will be Officially Requested to take the item to the Resident Assistant office for storage until the resident can make arrangements for its removal from campus. 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.

Illegal items that have been confiscated by or returned to Residence Life Staff will be stored for no more than 90 days. 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 2019*