

Residential Life Policies and Expectations

The below are some general Residential Life policies and rules which apply across all undergraduate residential areas. The list is not exhaustive and is meant as a guideline to help you. You should also review your area handbook for any area specific policies, and the Student Code of Conduct (Location: https://www.rochester.edu/college/cscm/assets/pdf/standards_studentconduct.pdf) for the universities policies.

Failure to follow the policies below could result in discipline action or even removal from housing. Please note, that when unsure if a policy is being violated, an RA will document the situation and you will be able to discuss the details with a professional staff member at a later time. If you have any questions or concerns please make sure you contact your Area Office for clarification.

Policies:

Pets (Fish Only):

The only pets allowed will be fish in a small aquarium (no larger than a 5 gallon tank). Dogs, cats, rabbits, ferrets, insects, spiders, snakes, etc. are strictly prohibited in student housing

Smoking Policy [See University Smoking Policy in the Student Code of Conduct]

All undergraduate housing is smoke-free, this includes the use of electronic smoking devices and chewing tobacco. Please note that select floors and residence halls have been designated as smoke free, meaning the residents have pledged to not smoke anywhere at any time (including off campus). Hookahs must be approved by the Office of the Dean of Students before use. You can reach the office at (585) 275-4085 or stop by the office to retrieve the registration form, located in 507 Wilson Commons.** (CSCM to confirm this is correct)

Room Occupancy

There can only be twice the number of occupants plus one extra person in a student room at any given time. A double room could have 5 people total in the room (2 residents x2 +1) and a triple or quad room can have 7 people total. Singles can have a total of 3 people. Residents must entertain additional visitors in the public lounge areas.

Overnight Guests

You must seek permission from your roommate or suitemate for any visitor staying overnight. Students are not allowed to host guests for more than four nights in any calendar month. You are responsible for all the actions of your guests (overnight or not). It is important to note that you will be held accountable if your guest violates any Standard of Student Code of Conduct or ResLife Policy and Procedures, regardless if your guests are UR or Non-UR Students.

Social Gatherings

Parties are NOT PERMITTED in the residence halls except for in the fraternity quad, subject to event registration approval. Parties are defined by behavior and atmosphere, *as well as excess of room occupancy.* While we encourage our residents to be social, they should do so without breaking any University, State, or Local laws (including, but not limited to possession alcohol, underage drinking, drinking games, and or noise policies). Gatherings will be asked to disband if there are any disturbances

to the community.

Bar-be-cues

Charcoal grills, camp stoves, gas grills, etc. are permitted to be used on campus grounds but may not be stored in the residence halls. All items **MUST** be used 30 ft. away from any building. Any grills, camp stoves, flammable materials, charcoal, etc may not be stored in residence halls. For more information, please review our Environmental Health and Safety guidelines: www.safety.rochester.edu

Fire Safety

The most common fire safety violations are: Candles, incense, propane, charcoal, lighter fluid, fireworks, extension cords, upward facing lamps, lamps with plastic shades, flags tapestries, shoes left in the hallway, string lights, foreman grills or any open-coil and open-flame devices. The College and University are required to support mandated to comply life safety codes by New York State and the NYS Office of Fire Prevention and Control (OFPC) expectations to protect our students and community and thus have developed policies and procedures to comply with State expectations. Please be aware of everyone's safety. This includes failure to evacuate the building during an alarm.

Do not cover the smoke detector, hang things from it, or in any way hinder the unit from working.

Please note that while microwaves are allowed in the room, no other cooking device or cooking in the room is allowed. Please also make sure that no furniture is blocking egress (access to the exit), and that all cords and cables are securely fastened.

You are also responsible for knowing the rules and regulations found in the below link:

<http://www.safety.rochester.edu/fire/pdf/ParentStudentResourcePage.pdf>

If you have any further questions or concerns, please make sure you contact your Area Office for clarification.

Quiet and Courtesy Hours

Quiet hours are in effect Sun – Thurs, 12am to 8am. Fri and Sat quiet hours are 2am to 10am. Courtesy hours are 24 hrs a day. ***Please note: A resident's right to study or sleep takes precedence over another's right to make noise.***

Alcohol and Drug Policy:

Below are Residential Life's alcohol and drug expectations. In addition to the below, you are responsible for following all alcohol policies outlined in the Student Code of Conduct (located here: https://www.rochester.edu/college/cscm/assets/pdf/standards_studentconduct.pdf)

- The possession or use of alcohol by all persons in all freshman-assigned rooms or Freshman Housing Areas is prohibited.
- Underage drinking is a violation of State law and University policy. Residents who violate the law and the policy will be subject to disciplinary action.
- Funnels, beer-pong (Beirut) tables, other drinking game paraphernalia, kegs, mini-kegs, beer balls, boxed wine, and other multi-serving containers are also PROHIBITED.
- Occupants are responsible for the behavior of their guests at all time. Please consult the Alcohol Policy for these standards.

- All illegal substances (any drug not prescribed to you) and all drug paraphernalia are PROHIBITED (including marijuana).
- Residents of legal drinking age not living in freshman housing may consume alcohol in the privacy of their room, suite, or house with other of age peers.
- Drinking or having open containers outside of your personal room/suite/house is never allowed under any circumstances in any residence hall.
- The possession of empty beer or alcohol containers in your assigned living space when you are under-age will be treated as a violation of Residential Life's alcohol expectations.

Student Furnishing

Do not remove furniture from your room and/or living areas. University issued Furniture must remain indoors and not on balconies or porches. Do not take furniture out of the lounges or other public spaces. Non-University mattresses are not permitted unless approved by University Health Services (UHS). You may not build/bring your own lofts or bars or alter the university furniture in anyway. This includes constructing your own furniture/lofts or bars. You may bring additional furniture, however no university issued furniture can be removed from your space. Refer to your area handbook for specifics.

Public Area Damages

Charges will be assessed for damages/cleaning/vandalism to public areas in the residence halls. If responsible individuals cannot be identified, charges will be shared among all students sharing corporate responsibility for that public area (corridors, floor lounges, elevators, bathrooms, kitchens, etc.).

Misuse of Keys:

Each resident is given their own key. Your keys are your responsibility. It is not permitted to lend your keys to another student or guest at any time. Remember to always take your key when leaving your room. Residential Life expects that students have their keys on them at all times and are responsible for them and their use. Repeated lock outs may result in a conduct referral.

Insurance and Liability: [See Student Housing Contract]

Students' personal property brought to the University is not covered for damage or loss by the University's insurance. We strongly suggest you review your family's homeowner's insurance to determine what is covered by that policy or can be covered with a rider to that policy. Specifically review theft of your property because many policies may cover damage but not loss. The University has also identified additional sources that provide insurance coverage for residence hall students. The University usually mails this material to you during the summer. While we cannot endorse these companies, we do recommend you review all the options and obtain coverage in case your property is damaged or lost.

Decorating Your Room

We understand you wish to make your room reflect your personality and taste. However, when decorating, you must observe fire safety policy (for the protection of you and your fellow hall residents) and must not permanently alter the room in any way. Remember the room must remain in good condition for future residents. If you damage or alter the room, you will be charged for the cost of the repair, restoration, or replacement.

You are responsible for following all fire safety regulations when decorating your room. (See Fire Safety Section)

- You may not paint your room.
- You may put carpet on the floor, but you may not tack it down.
- Cords may not be under carpets or tacked or taped up on the walls or above doors.

- Mounting a mirror to walls or furniture may be billed as damage if it is not removed at the end of the year.
- Curtains and drapes are prohibited.
- Fridges and Microwaves are permitted in rooms but must be plugged directly into the wall, not into a surge protector. Fridges can be up to 4.3 cubic feet in size and microwaves 900W or less. Other appliances or cooking appliances cannot be used in bedrooms and must have an automatic shutoff.
- Homemade lofts are not permitted however some furniture does loft, check with your Area Office for details.
- Bed risers are permitted, some areas have some for student use, check with your Area Office for details.
- Crepe paper, plastic or Mylar decorations are not allowed.
- Air-conditioning is not permitted.

Hanging Items on Walls

Residential Life and Housing Services has a firm and uniform policy prohibiting the use of nails or thumb tacks to hang items on walls in university owned properties (residents of Brooks Crossing and Riverview should refer to separate expectations for their areas).

Please use removable, non damaging materials to hang items up in your residence hall room. 3M command strips may be used, but they can cause damage if not applied and removed properly and. White poster putty or blue masking tape (commonly known as painters tape) are preferred. Any damage caused to your room walls will be billed at the end of the year.

Building Security

- Never prop the doors to the residence halls for any reason.
- Do not let people who do not have proper ID into the buildings. Letting such people in may compromise the security of the hall.
- Whenever you see a propped door, unprop it for your safety and that of others, and make sure the door is secure again.
- ALWAYS lock your room when you leave and carry your keys with you. Most thefts occur when rooms are left unlocked, even for a few minutes.
- Remember, if you cannot see your unlocked room, you cannot protect your belongings. Please lock your door even if you are going to the restroom, kitchen, lounge, or just down the hall.

Damage Billing

Damage billing is used to address all damages within individual student rooms as well as vandalism and damages in public areas. Lobbies, hallways, social and student lounges, recreation rooms, bathrooms, and elevators are just a few of the public areas that sustain damage throughout the year. Instead of requiring a damage deposit from each resident, like a security deposit on an apartment, we choose to bill the residents for individual incidents.

When public areas are vandalized or University property is damaged either the student(s) responsible can accept responsibility or the students living in the surrounding area will be assessed a damage fee to

cover the cost of repairs. Depending on the building and the physical configuration, as well as the nature of each incident, our staff will determine whether the incident should be shared by all members of the building or by members of a floor or suite. We also take natural wear and tear into consideration opting many times to disregard charges that may have not had resident involvement.

The philosophy behind vandalism and public damage billing is that all residents in University Housing are part of a larger community on campus. Therefore, residents are not only responsible for their personal accommodations, but also the community areas they share with fellow residents. One aspect of this responsibility is that damages occur in common areas. It is our hope that residents will work to prevent damages and address incidents as they occur (community members look out for their neighbors). We realize that not everyone is responsible for these damages however like all members of our community, we benefit from the advantages granted by working elevators, exit signs, and hallway lights, etc... these items are repaired when broken to ensure that all residents benefit from their existence.

Bicycles

Bikes may be stored in your room (with the permission of your roommate and as long as it does not block egress) or locked on a bicycle rack. Bike storage is never permitted in public areas (stairwells, lounges, hallways, railings, etc.) Bikes in these areas will be removed by public safety.

Room Entry

It is the University's intention to assure all reasonable privacy in student rooms. When appropriate, reasonable advance notification will be provided before entering a student room. However, University officials (including but not limited to Public Safety, NY State Fire Marshall, Residential Life Professional Staff, and the Environmental Service Workers) reserve the right to enter your room without notice for verification of occupancy and other Residential Life administrative functions; for performance of protective housekeeping or maintenance functions; for health and safety inspections; to protect life, limb, or property; to assure compliance with Housing Contract conditions as well as State, Federal, and University regulations.

Posting and Solicitation Policy for Residence Halls

Advertising is strictly limited to bulletin boards in residence hall areas. Posting is not allowed on doors, windows, bathroom mirrors, floors or rugs, in elevators, or in stairwells. Advertising may not be slid under student room doors. Promotional literature for recognized student organizations, approved student programs, and campaign posters may be distributed on residence hall bulletin boards unless the board is specifically for a particular use (i.e. RA, Hall Council, or EcoRep). When posting on bulletin boards, only one advertisement per organization is allowed. Groups must not cover up other ads when posting their own advertisements. Staples, thumb tacks, and painters tape are approved methods of hanging advertisements. *Do not use duct tape or packing tape.* Promotional literature posted on any surface other than bulletin boards will be removed by the Res Life staff. Commercial advertising is not permitted in any residence hall building. Such advertisements will be removed by staff and companies run the risk of being banned by the college.

Weapons [See University Weapons Policy in the Student Code of Conduct]

Weapons are strictly prohibited in all undergraduate residential life and housing facilities. A weapon is any instrument that is used to inflict physical harm, is intended to be used to inflict harm, or could reasonably cause fear of infliction of harm, including any item that may be deemed a weapon under applicable law. Examples include, but are not limited to: pistols, revolvers, shotguns, rifles, firearms, stun guns, BB or pellet guns, Tasers, bows and arrows, and other instruments that launch projectiles, including electric dart guns and paintball guns, as well as parts or ammunition relating to any of the above; martial arts tools, brass knuckles, daggers, swords, and knives (including Swiss Army knives); bombs, grenades, mines, explosives, or incendiary devices (which can include ignition devices and aerosols). A disarmed weapon still counts as a weapon. The determination of whether an item is considered a weapon for the purposes of this policy will be made on the totality of the circumstances surrounding the item's possession and use. For example, an ordinary kitchen knife used for food preparation would not be considered a weapon in connection with that use. If there are questions about whether a given item counts as a weapon, students should contact the Center for Student Conflict Management for clarification before bringing the item to campus. All ammunition for any weapon is also prohibited in any of the residence halls. If found, Public Safety will confiscate the items.