

Residential Life Policies and Expectations

The below are some general residential life policies and rules which apply across all undergraduate 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: [Standards of Student Conduct](#)) 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, and snakes are strictly prohibited in student housing.

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

All undergraduate housing is smoke-free, including the use of electronic smoking devices and chewing tobacco, and is also prohibited on campus. 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.

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. Cohabitation is prohibited.

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. All 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

Candles, incense, propane, charcoal, lighter fluid, fireworks, extension cords, upward facing lamps, lamps with plastic shades, flags, tapestries, shoes in the hall, foreman grills or any open-coil and open-flame devices are not allowed in our halls. 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 in your room 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 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.

- The possession or use of alcohol by all persons in all first-year-assigned rooms or First-Year 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 first-year 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. 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 alter the university furniture in anyway. This includes constructing your own furniture/lofts. 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 his or her own key. Your keys are your responsibility and 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:

Although Residential Life at UR places a high priority on facilities management and student security in our residence halls, there are incidents that can happen that result in theft or damage to student property. Residential Life is not responsible for covering the loss and damage (due to water leak, fire, etc.) to residents' personal effects or for other theft of or other damage to personal property. Additionally, Residential Life is not liable for damages that occur accidentally or as the result of natural causes or an "act of God"; nor liable for damages which occur because of the actions of others.

Therefore, we strongly recommend that every resident makes sure that their belongings are covered by either their parents' homeowner's policy or an individual insurance plan.

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.

Policy: Hanging items on walls in all student rooms and public areas of the houses

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 painter's tape) are preferred. Any damage caused to your room walls, will be billed at the end of the year.

There are lots of older buildings on our campus (both residential and classroom), many of them dating back to times when asbestos was commonly used as a fire retardant, insulation and sound retardant in many building materials. We do not know all the places asbestos may be on our campus. We do know that if it is left undisturbed, it poses no threat to health.

Cutting, drilling, or even pounding a nail into a wall can potentially release asbestos fibers into the air if they are present. Larger breaches (a large hole punched in a wall) can potentially require a costly abatement process (billed to the responsible student) and residents may need to be relocated if that were to happen.

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

At the end of the semester/year, all residence hall rooms are assessed for damages beyond pre-existing damage as well as normal wear and tear. If Residential Life staff finds any damages, a fee will be charged to your term bill at the end of the semester. Additionally, damage fees will be split between the residents of a room.

Damage billing is also used to address all vandalism and damages in public areas of residence halls such as lobbies, hallways, social and student lounges, recreation rooms, bathrooms, and elevators. A community damage billing fee will be added to the term bill of all students who live on that floor/building where the vandalism or damage occurred. These charges can be avoided if a resident or group of residents take responsibility for the damage to the public area. Each time an incident occurs, a staff member documents it and several attempts to notify residents of this damage are made (ex. weekly Hall Council meetings, e-mails from the RA, floor meetings). While we realize that not everyone is responsible for damages to public residence hall areas, all community members benefit from the advantages granted by working elevators, exit signs, and hallway lights.

A summary of room damage and community vandalism charges will be mailed to your home address. This statement is not the bill, but will itemize the damages and associated fees. It also outlines the appeals process if you feel that your bill is unjust.

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.