

# H & S Check Frequently Asked Questions

## Q: Why do we have Health and Safety Checks?

A: We all live in a communal setting, and thus need to have certain rules in place to ensure that everyone is safe and comfortable. The college and fire marshal have identified items and behaviors that are dangerous to the community, and the checks allow staff members to identify violations, and work with students to address them.

## Q: Who performs the checks? What if no one is in the room?

A: All checks are performed by Residential Life and or Environmental Health and Safety staff. Most checks happen when residents have left campus for a break period. Two staff members will enter together. September checks are meant to be educational, so your Resident Assistant will work hard to do the inspection with you present, so they can inform you of violations in your space.

## Q: When do these checks happen?

A: We will inspect your space four times a year: once in September, and at the start of the Thanksgiving, Winter, and Spring breaks. Be on the look out for more information in your halls.

## Q: I was fined for a violation that was not on my side of the room or apartment. It was on my roommate's side. Why am I being fined?

A: All residents in a space are responsible for everything that happens in your space as you are collectively responsible. Please review this document with your roommate(s).

## Q: What happens if a violation is found?

A: If a violation is found during the September checks, you will be given a written warning and be asked to remove the violation. Dangerous items, like propane tanks, are confiscated right away, and are subject to judicial fines and sanctions. All violations found during other checks are subject to judicial fines and sanctions.

## Q: My violation has been there since the previous check and no one has said anything until now. Why am I being fined now?

A: Sometimes violations are missed during checks. It is unfortunate, but it does happen, and it does not exempt you from being fined when the violation is discovered.

## Q: What if I have questions?

A: Most of your questions will be answered in this guide. If you have additional questions, feel free to contact your Resident Assistant, the Residence Director, or visit [www.ithaca.edu/reslife/rl\\_guide/health\\_and\\_safety.htm](http://www.ithaca.edu/reslife/rl_guide/health_and_safety.htm). We are happy to answer any questions to ensure that we live in safe community.

## Q: I own hunting equipment. May I store it on campus?

A: You may not store any hunting equipment in the halls, but the Office of Public Safety is happy to store them for you during the academic year. Please call (607) 274-3333 for more information about this free service.

# H & S Check Judicial Fines & Action

It is important to keep our halls a safe place for everyone in the community. If you are found in violation of the Health and Safety policies, each person in the space will be held accountable in the following manner:

- \$25 fine
- Removal of Item
- Judicial Sanction

**Please note that all judicial sanctions will increase every time a violation is discovered. Fines are not assessed during the educational checks in September as long as the space is brought to compliance by the given date.**

When violations are identified, students will be informed of the violation, given an outline of potential outcomes, and invited to meet with a Residence Director to discuss judicial charges.

Sanctions may include: written warnings, reflection papers, special projects, seminars, disciplinary probation and removal from college housing. Sanctions are assigned based on the severity of the violation, and your judicial history.

If other violations are observed (such as the possession of stolen property, or drugs) they will be documented and you will be held judicially responsible.

The fines associated with health and safety violations will appear on your student bill. However, these fines are not appealable.

NOTICE: This document is not a comprehensive listing of all health and safety violations and prohibited items. Please refer to our website, or ask your RD if you are unsure about a policy or item.

Live in the Circle or Garden Apartments?  
Please refer to the  
Apartment Health and Safety Information Guide.

# ITHACA

Produced by the  
Office of Residential Life  
and the Office of Public Safety

[www.ithaca.edu/reslife](http://www.ithaca.edu/reslife)

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# HEALTH AND SAFETY INFORMATION

Tips to keep your Residence Hall Safe



For residents living in: Bogart, Boothroyd, Clarke, Eastman, Emerson, Hilliard, Hood, Holmes, Landon, Lyon, Rowland, Tallcott Halls; East and West Tower; and Terraces 1-13.

Apartment residents: please refer to the Apartment Health and Safety Information Guide

# H & S Check

## How to use this Guide

Please take a moment to ensure your personal belongings, room furnishing and room set-up follow the guidelines outlined in this brochure. These guidelines are designed to help reduce the risk of fire and to help keep our living environment safer.

Remember that all residents of the room are held judicially responsible and assessed a fine for any violations found in a space during Health and Safety Checks.

For more information about Health and Safety policies, please visit:

[www.ithaca.edu/reslife/rl\\_guide/health\\_and\\_safety.htm](http://www.ithaca.edu/reslife/rl_guide/health_and_safety.htm)

or speak to your Resident Assistant or Residence Director.

**Apartment Residents:** Please refer to the Apartment Health and Safety Information Guide.

### Cooking Appliances



BBQ Grills  
(Gas and charcoal)



Hot Plates  
and All Kettles



Microwave  
(Microfridges OK)



Refrigerators  
Under 5 cubic feet



More than 1  
Refrigerator per Room



Microfridges



Electric Grills  
(ie: George Foreman)



Toasters and  
Toaster Ovens



Coffee Maker  
with auto shut-off

### Electrical Equipment



Halogen  
Lamps



Sun or Heat  
Lamps



Octopus (Multi-head)  
Lamps



Extension  
Cords



Multi-plug  
Adaptors



Non-Surge Protected  
Powerstrip



Surge Protector  
w/ On Off Switch

### Decorating



Candles  
(Even if not burned)



Incense  
and Burner



Items hung from  
Ceilings or Pipes



More than 1  
Strand of String Lights



Tapestries and  
Cloth Decorations



Cloth Curtains  
over Windows or Closets

**20% Rule:** No more than 20% of a wall or of a door may be covered in combustible materials such as posters and decorations.

### Other Violations



Propane and  
Camp Fuel



Fireworks



Alcohol (under 21), Drugs  
and Paraphernalia

#### Other Violations:

Blocked Egress - all exits must be free and clear of items at all times. This includes tapestries hung in front of doorways, furniture, or piles of personal belongings.

"Piggy Backing" - do not plug a surge protector into another surge protector.

Weapons - including but not limited to: guns, hunting knives, swords, throwing stars, brass knuckles and nunchuks.

Pets - the only pets permitted are fish in a ten gallon tank or smaller. No other animals are allowed.

College Property - including lounge furniture, folding tables and chairs, computing equipment, parking cones, and college signs.

Tampering with Fire Safety Equipment- including smoke detectors, heat detectors, fire extinguishers, fire hoses and fire alarms.

Binge Drinking Paraphernalia - like funnels, pong tables, and luges.

### Prohibited Items

These items cannot be stored or used in any residence hall space:

- ✘ Electric Cooking Pots
- ✘ Electric Blankets
- ✘ Space Heaters / AC
- ✘ Large Appliances
- ✘ Charcoal
- ✘ Lighter Fluid
- ✘ Flammable Liquids (ie gasoline, etc)
- ✘ Water Beds
- ✘ Lava lamps

### Special Items

These items can be stored in student rooms, but can only be used in kitchens:

- Popcorn Popper
- Blenders

Amps - can be stored in student rooms, but cannot be used in and around any residence hall spaces.

Bicycles - are allowed on campus. Students must store bikes in their rooms, on balconies, or on a bike racks on campus. They cannot hang from ceilings, block any exits, or block any stairs.

### Approved Items

Feel free to bring and use these items into your residence hall space.

- TV
- DVD Player
- VCR
- Game System
- Personal Computer & Accessories
- Small Stereo System
- Headphones
- MP3 Player
- CD Player
- Non-halogen Lamp
- Surge Protectors
- Non-halogen Desk Lamp
- Iron with auto shut-off
- Blue Painter's Tape