

Ithaca College

Appliance and Electrical Safety Rules

Prohibited Electrical Appliances

As a fire safety precaution, all of the following appliances are *prohibited* in residence hall rooms:

- Broilers
- Electric frying pans
- Griddles
- Halogen lights
- Heating coils
- Hot plates
- Hot pots
- Large refrigerators
- Microwave ovens (other than approved "microfridges" available through the Refrigerator Leasing Co.)
- Toasters
- Toaster ovens
- Water coolers with refrigeration or heating elements

F.Y.I.

- Appliances such as popcorn poppers, coffeemakers, and blenders should be used *only* in residence hall kitchens.
- Irons and clothes steamers should be used only in laundry rooms.
- Continuous use of light-strings (such as holiday lighting) or electric candles is not allowed.

Extension Cord Rules

According to New York State fire prevention codes, extension cords and plug adapters of any kind are *prohibited* in residence hall rooms and on-campus apartments.

Only multiplug power strips that meet *all* criteria listed below are allowed:

- ✓ equipped with a surge suppressor
- ✓ approved by the Underwriters' Laboratory (UL)
- ✓ grounded, three-prong plug
- ✓ cords must be 12- or 14-gauge wire (typically indicated on cord)
 - Lower gauge number means thicker wire (e.g., "12/3" is thicker than "14/3")

F.Y.I.

- Plugging a power strip of any type into another one (“piggy-backing”) is *not* permitted.
- Approved power strips with long cords (e.g., 15 feet) are available.

Prohibited!

Although extension cords and plug adapters may be common in your home, they are not allowed in residence hall rooms and on-campus apartments according to New York State fire prevention codes.

Examples of *prohibited* items:

[[AO" Insert images here, if used. If not using this line of "Examples of prohibited items," please delete this line]]

More Important Residence Hall Fire Safety Information

- Candles are prohibited in *all* residential facilities (other than preapproved areas designated for observance of religious holidays and ceremonies).
- All electrical items should be UL-approved and in good condition.
- Multiplug adapters are prohibited.
- Students are prohibited from tampering with in-room electrical fixtures. Wall-mounted or outlet-type ("universal") plug adapters are not allowed, regardless of whether they have a surge suppressor.
- Flammable liquids (e.g., lighter fluid, gasoline) and compressed gases (e.g., butane, propane) are prohibited in *all* residential facilities.
- Burning of incense is not allowed in any residential facility.
- Refer to the online Ithaca College Student Handbook[[www.ithaca.edu/handbook]] and "Home Away from Home,"[[www.ithaca.edu/reslife/Homeaway.html]], a section of the residential life website, for additional information. These sources can answer questions about permitted and prohibited electrical devices, as well as questions about appliances for residence halls and on-campus apartments.

PROOF IS IN THE PRINT

April 7, 2002

Dormitory Fire

DePauw University

Greencastle, Indiana

An early morning fire caused over \$1 million in damage. The fire, which started from an electrical appliance in a fourth-floor room, forced the evacuation of 116 students from the building as well as over 200 students from adjacent buildings. The building was not equipped with an automatic fire sprinkler system.

March 28, 2002

Off-Campus House Fire

University of Missouri

Columbia, Missouri

Columbia fire investigators determined the cause of the fire at 1415 Wilson was combustibles placed too close to a space heater. The space heater was placed too close to the foot of the bed. Investigators say the bedding, which is extremely combustible, could have come in direct contact with the heater, or radiant heat from the heater may have ignited the bedding.

February 16, 2002

Residence Hall Fire

Amherst College

Amherst, Massachusetts

A halogen lamp started a fire in a residence that had been converted into student housing. The lamp, located in an unoccupied second-floor room, fell over and ignited combustibles in the area. The building's fire alarm system was activated and an occupant from another room discovered the fire. He attempted, unsuccessfully, to put out the fire using a dry chemical fire extinguisher. Smoke and heat damage were limited to the room of origin. Halogen lamps are banned by Amherst College.

February 4, 1999

Residence Hall Fire

Ithaca College

Ithaca, NY

A hot plate used in a dorm room for cooking started a fire in Rowland Hall. A student living in the room next door reported smelling smoke and went to investigate. As he entered the hallway, he could hear the room's smoke alarm and could see smoke seeping out around the door. He activated the building's fire alarm system by using a pull station located in the hallway.

The fire caused \$6,000 in damage to College property. The dollar loss to personal property is unknown. Hot plates are one of many prohibited appliances for students living in residential halls.

About Environmental Health and Safety

- ❖ The Office of Environmental Health and Safety (EH&S), a division of the Office of Public Safety, provides a variety of fire safety, building safety, and environmental, health, and safety services to the campus community.
- ❖ Our team includes a New York State-certified building code official, a state-certified fire service instructor, and other skilled, experienced professionals who specialize in fire detection and suppression systems, state and local building safety codes, fire safety training, and fire safety inspections.
- ❖ We continuously inspect, test, and maintain all of the College's sprinklers, heat detectors, smoke detectors, fire extinguishers, pull stations, and automatic fire alarm systems.
- ❖ We conduct regular emergency evacuation drills ("fire drills") so students become familiar with the fire alarm signal and escape plan for the residential facility they live in.
- ❖ Through campus resident assistants (RAs), you can arrange to participate in student fire safety training programs, which are available through EH&S.

Questions?

Call the Office of Environmental Health and Safety, (607) 274-3333,
or the Office of Residential Life, (607) 274-3141.

Prepared by

The Office of Environmental Health and Safety

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(607) 274-3333*

To report an EMERGENCY, call

911