

Parent/Student Resource Page (FAQs)

- Why do we have fire drills? Fire drills are conducted in order to familiarize occupants with the sound of the fire alarm system, the location of emergency exits, practice evacuation procedures and to check the alarm system for proper operation. These drills may seem like a nuisance but many lives have been saved by the knowledge gained from fire drills. Fire drills also provide essential training for those responsible for the safety of others.
- Do I have to leave the building during an alarm? Absolutely! Everyone must immediately evacuate University buildings, whenever the fire alarm system is activated. Treat every alarm as an emergency and promptly leave the building. Failure to do so will result in strict disciplinary measures and possible criminal prosecution.
- How often are fire drills conducted on campus? As a minimum, fire drills must be held no less frequently than required by law or other entity having jurisdiction. Four times per year in residence halls and three times per year in academic buildings in accordance with the New York State Education Law, Section 807. Of the four drills in the residence halls, one drill shall be after sunset and before sunrise. In buildings where summer sessions are conducted, one of the required three drills shall be held during the first week of such summer sessions. For all other buildings it is the University's practice to perform one drill per year.
- Is smoking permitted in University buildings? Smoking is **not permitted** in any property of the University of Rochester. This includes all buildings, student rooms and suites, hallways, entryways, and other spaces of that nature.
- Is my living area protected by a fire alarm and sprinklers? Fire protection information for both on-campus and off-campus housing can be found at the following link:

[UR Residential Life - Fire Log Statistics](#)

[UR Residential Life – Fire Drill & Fire Systems](#)

- Where can I find fire safety information for the University? If you are living on campus, you can click here for the [Campus Fire Safety brochure](#). If you are living off campus, you can click here for information about [Off-Campus Fire Housing Fire Safety](#).
- What cooking appliances are not allowed in my on-campus residence hall?
Non-Approved Appliances (Generically, devices with open elements or that can produce enough heat to start a fire if used improperly). Including but not limited to:
 - George Foreman grills or similar cooking appliances.
 - Toasters, portable or toaster ovens, smokeless indoor grills, etc.
 - Hotplates, electric skillets, crock pots, etc.
 - Combination microwaves with broiling elements
 - Submersion coil water heaters
 - BBQ grills or open flame devices (charcoal, gas or other fuel)
 - Personal lighting that has an **upward facing** lamp (regardless of protective cover or bulb type)

- Personal lighting that has movable octopus arms so that lamp can be faced upward
- Non-UL safety approved electric powered appliances
- All portable heating devices (space heaters of any type)
- What other items are not allowed in my room?
Non-Approved Items (*Generically, items that can produce enough heat to start a fire if used improperly, or sources of fuel in case of fire*). Including but not limited to:
 - Candles, lantern, lamps or any other item that produces an open flame
 - Tobacco, incense or any other item that burns or smolders when used
 - 3D printers
 - Hoverboards and self-balancing scooters
 - All flammable materials (gas, lighter fluid, charcoal, propane, solvents, etc.)
 - All items powered by combustible fuels (such as motorcycles)
 - All fireworks, explosives, etc.
 - All corrosive (or poisonous) chemicals and hazardous materials.
 - All lightweight extension cords or multi plug outlet adapters
 - Heavy weight power strips or extension cords **without** safety circuit breakers; Flexible (twisty) power strips.
 - Multiple approved power strips connected together (“daisy chaining”)
 - All cords extended through walls, ceilings, affixed to walls, under floor coverings, across corridors, etc
 - Curtains/drapes that are not inherently fire retardant
 - Anything covering ceilings (tapestries, banners, posters, nets or other combustible materials)
 - All decorations covering more than 20% of walls (tapestries, banners, posters or other combustible materials)
 - Crepe paper, plastic or Mylar decorations, ribbons, streamers, etc.
 - Combustible materials as door decorations covering more than 20% of doors total
 - Runners, door mats, or other combustible floor coverings in hallways and suite corridors.
 - All standard and “rope type” decorative string lighting (Christmas, chili pepper lights, etc.)

Click here for the [Residential Life Fire & Fire Safety Guidelines/Checklist](#).

- What does “daisy chain” mean with regards to surge protectors? A “daisy-chain” means connecting 2 or more surge protectors together to one wall outlet. This is very dangerous and should not be done. Each unit should be plugged directly into a properly grounded wall outlet for optimum surge protection.



(example of daisy chain)

- I like my room to smell nice. Can I use candles or incense in my room? The use of candles (with or without a wick) or the burning of incense in student residence facilities **is prohibited**. Also, lighting devices such as tiki lamps, oil lamps, torches, etc. are **absolutely prohibited** in student

residence facilities. Possession of these prohibited lighting devices in student facilities will result in appropriate student disciplinary measures.

- I sometimes get cold in my room. Can I use a space heater? Portable space heaters are **prohibited** to be used in residence facilities.
- Can I have a live Christmas tree or decorations in my room? The use of natural trees (cut or alive), natural wreaths, boughs, or greenery are prohibited except as approved by the Fire Marshal because of its fire potential and rapid flame spread.

The use of holiday lights, electric ornaments and extension cords in corridors and over exit doors is prohibited.

Christmas trees and related decorations are not permitted in corridors, aisles, stairways or passageways. Trees and related decorations are not allowed to obstruct the usual view of exit signs.

- Can I store a bicycle in my campus room? I don't want it to get stolen. Bicycles are not allowed to be stored in individual bedrooms, hallways, corridors or stairwells in student residence facilities.
- How do I contact the Fire Marshal's office if I have any other questions? You can contact the Fire Marshal's office at 275-3243. If you want to submit your questions online, you may do so at questions@safety.rochester.edu.