

Room Decorations and Modifications

Room decorations and modifications are important in personalizing student rooms, but students should make plans that enhance their personal safety.

Wall hangings, posters, or other hanging room decorations must be affixed to and flush with the wall using products approved by the Office of Residential and Commuter Life (for a complete listing of approved products see: <http://www.longwood.edu/rcl>). Wall hangings or beads cannot cover exit routes.

The indiscriminate use of nails, tacks, or screws is not permitted. Students should not hang objects from the ceiling, sprinkler system, or any component of the fire alarm system. Because of the importance of ceiling tiles in preventing the spread of fire, students are prohibited from removing or replacing ceiling tiles or storing items above the ceiling tiles.

All decorative materials shall be non-combustible or flame resistant. These materials must have a tag stating that they are non-combustible or have a certificate of flame resistant treatment.

- * Fresh cut trees or cut greenery is not permitted in any building on campus.
- * String lighting cannot be strung from wall to wall across hallways, exit routes, or fixture to fixture. All lights must be flushed to the wall.

Electrical Appliance Regulations:

There are different regulations for those students living in residence hall rooms than those students living in Longwood Managed Apartments. For detailed and updated list, consult the Residential and Commuter Life.

Students living in traditional residence halls are not permitted to have in their residence hall rooms any appliance with exposed electrical coils, including, but not limited to, hot plates, toasters, toaster ovens, electrical grills (including “George Foreman”), and space heaters. Refrigerators must be no larger than 4.5 cubic feet and/or 2.0 amperes. Microwaves must not exceed 1000 watts. Ceiling fans and dimmer switches are also not permitted. Extension cords are not permitted for any reason. Any length UL listed multi-plug devices are permitted only if they can suppress surges, any may not have over-current protection (circuit breaker) (**Reference 605.4.1 Power tap design, Statewide Fire Prevention Code**).

*The University reserves the right to reject any electrical appliances that it considered as potentially hazardous to the safety of students and others.

Lofts:

Lofts and bunk beds may be constructed in student rooms in accordance with Loft Construction Regulations. The purpose of these guidelines is to ensure the safety and comfort of all members of the hall community. The University is not responsible for injuries to the occupants of the room or their guest during and/or after completion of the work. The regulations are as follows:

- 1) The loft of bunk bed must be free-standing (not nailed, bolted or otherwise fastened to the walls, ceiling, floor or other furniture in the room)

- 2) Wood materials used must be either pre-treated wood, stamped indicating that it is composed of flame resistant material, or dipped/coated with a UL class A flame retardant coating.
- 3) All major right-angled supports must be through-bolted or lag screwed. All other joints (decorative finished, cross members, “X” or “V” supports) can be nailed. All support braces must be used.
- 4) The loft of bunk bed must not restrict exit from the windows or doors of the room, and the windows and doors must remain fully operable.
- 5) The loft or bunk bed must not be enclosed in any way (including drapery, beads, parachutes, wallboard, fishnet, etc.).

Support of Virginia Statewide Fire Prevention Code:

Longwood University actively supports the Virginia Statewide Fire Prevention Code which is enforced by the State Fire Marshal’s Office. The Office of Environmental Health and Safety is responsible for seeing that changes to the Fire Prevention Code are broadcast to the University, and that Longwood is in compliance with all regulations. **(Reference 807.1 General Requirements and the Exception of the Virginia Statewide Fire Prevention Code).**

- 1) Curtains, draperies, hangings, and other decorative materials suspended from walls shall be flame resistant or non-combustible. Proper documentation must be provided.
- 2) Decorative materials shall not exceed 10 percent of the aggregate area of walls and ceilings.
- 3) No decorations or other objects shall be placed to obstruct exits, access thereto egress there from, or visibility thereof.