Residence Hall Policies

Texas Tech University – University Student Housing

1. Alcohol Containers – Housing policy prohibits the possession of empty and/or decorative alcohol container(s). For Texas Tech University’s policy on Alcoholic Beverages, please see section B.1. in the Code of Student Conduct.

2. Smoking Policy – Smoking is prohibited in all campus administrative facilities; this includes all residence hall rooms, public areas, lobbies, hallways, lounges, game rooms, bathrooms, showers, computer rooms, kitchenettes, and dining halls. Students may smoke outside as long as they are at least 20 feet from any part of the building and utilize designated receptacles for disposal. For Texas Tech University’s policy on Narcotics or Drugs, please see section B.2. in the Code of Student Conduct. The Smoke-free Environment Policy is outlined in the Texas Tech University Operating Policy and Procedure Manual 60.15.

3. Community Agreements – Community agreements are developed to help make living in the residence halls a positive community living experience where all members have the right to live in an academically purposeful environment. People in the residence halls may not violate documented community agreements.

4. Weapons – It is a violation of housing policy to have items used as weapons, including but not limited to, dart guns, knives of two or more inches in length), and hunting equipment (including shotguns, paint guns, pellet guns, bows and arrows, and designated martial arts equipment). For Texas Tech University’s policy on Firearms, Weapons, and Explosives, please see section B.4. in the Code of Student Conduct.

5. Flammable Materials – Flammable materials are prohibited in the residence halls. This includes, but is not limited to, possession or use of the following items:
   a. Candles and Incense - Candles, candle warmers, and/or incense (lit or unlit), are not allowed in student rooms and/or public areas in any of the residence halls.
   b. Vegetation of a Combustible Nature - Christmas Trees, tumbleweeds, etc.
   c. Light Strings - Light strings (e.g. Christmas lights) cannot be hung up in the hallways, but may be displayed in individual rooms.
   d. Covered Surfaces - Surfaces (walls, ceilings, or doors) may not be more than 50%.
   e. Appliances - Open-faced electrical or heating appliances including hot plates, broilers, space heaters, immersion heaters, toasters, toaster ovens, and George Foreman Grills.
   f. Lamps - Sun lamps, halogen lamps, and tanning beds.
   g. Grills - Charcoal, kerosene, propane, or electric grills.
   h. Flammable Liquid or Compressed Gases - Use or storage of any type of flammable liquids or compressed gas.
   i. Large Coffee Pots - Coffee pots with a capacity of more than six cups.
   j. See other unauthorized items in the following sections.

For Texas Tech University’s policy on Flammable Materials/Arson, please see section B.5. in the Code of Student Conduct.
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6. Theft, Damage, or Unauthorized Use – The intentional or unintentional misuse of residence hall facilities, equipment, and furniture is a violation of policy. This includes, but is not limited to:
   a. Public Area Furniture - Furniture in public areas of the residence halls is to remain in its place for the convenience of all residents and their guests.
   b. Room Furniture - Resident rooms have built-in furniture and fixtures, which should not be dismantled.
   c. Elevator Misuse - Persons who misuse an elevator will be subject to disciplinary action and held financially responsible for any damage.
   d. Screens and Sealed Windows - Screens must be left on the windows and window ledges are not to be used for storage. Students can be held personally liable for any damages to property and/or any personal injury resulting from items being thrown from windows or falling from ledges. In some areas the windows have been sealed for student protection and to prevent objects from falling out of the windows. Sealed windows must be left sealed and unopened. A $40.00 charge to reseal the window will be assessed. If a screen is removed, a $40.00 charge to replace the screen will be assessed. In some areas window stoppers are used for student safety and to prevent misuse of windows. Window stoppers must not be removed. If window stoppers are removed a $25.00 charge to re-add stoppers the window will be assessed.
   e. See also the Flammable Materials section. For Texas Tech University’s policy on Theft, Damage, or Unauthorized Use, please see section B.6. in the Code of Student Conduct.

7. Items Not Permitted in the Residence Halls or Public Areas – Possession of the following items are a violation of housing policy:
   a. Appliances, including but not limited to:
      i. Air-conditioners
      ii. Dishwasher
      iii. Dryers
      iv. Microwaves over 1500 watts
      v. Outdoor antennas of any kind
      vi. Ovens
      vii. Refrigerators over 3.7 cubic feet
      viii. Toasters and toaster ovens
      ix. Washing machines
   b. Furniture, such as:
      i. Non-approved bed lofts
      ii. Waterbeds
   c. Telecommunications Network Items - Devices including, but not limited to, hubs, switches, bridges, routers, wireless network access points, network firewalls, VPN concentrators, and remote access devices are not permitted under this policy. The telecommunications device policy is outlined in the Texas Tech University Operating Policy and Procedure Manual 52.03.
   d. Unsafe items – All electric appliances must bear a UL or equivalent certification label. All equipment should be kept in safe operating condition.
8. Pets and Animals – Pets, with the exception of fish, are not allowed to visit or be kept in residence hall rooms. Guide dogs (or similar domesticated animals) are permitted within the residence halls for persons with a documented disability. Guide dogs or other such animals should be brought to the attention of University Student Housing staff.

9. Fire Safety – It is a violation of Housing policy to do the following:
   a. Fire Safety Equipment Abuse - Tampering with fire alarm systems and extinguishers, misuse or tampering of sprinkler systems and any other fire safety equipment is a violation of Texas law and the Code of Student Conduct. Anyone unnecessarily setting off or tampering with a fire alarm system, sprinkler system or fire extinguisher will be subject to judicial action, financial responsibility and/or referral to the civil authorities for prosecution under Texas law. Removal from the residence hall community may also be considered for the individual(s). For Texas Tech University’s policy on False Alarms/Terroristic Threats, please see section B.10. in the Code of Student Conduct.
   b. Failure to Evacuate - Failing to evacuate the building during a fire alarm can cause harm to the individual as well as fire safety personnel if a rescue is needed. Failure to evacuate during a fire alarm will result in judicial action, possible monetary fines, and could result in an arrest for violating federal laws. (See also Texas Tech University’s policy on Failure to Comply in section B.13 of the Code of Student Conduct.)

10. Guests and Visitors – It is a violation of housing policy to have visitors outside of the approved visiting hours. These hours are subject to a vote but default to Sunday through Thursday 11 AM - midnight, Friday and Saturday 11 AM - 2 AM prior to the vote. Additionally, the host will be responsible for ensuring that the guest is familiar with, and observes, all university and residence hall policies and procedures. The host and the visiting guest will both be held accountable for any policy violations, damages and/or loss of property.
   a. Overnight Guests - Residents may host a guest of their own gender overnight in the residence halls. Guests are considered any individual who does not live in the designated room. No more than three people, including residents, may occupy a room overnight. Overnight guests are allowed to stay a maximum of three consecutive nights and a maximum of three nights during a week. The roommate's rights to the room must be given priority with regard to guests. The roommate should not be compelled to leave the room in order to accommodate a guest, nor should he or she be placed in situations that might cause embarrassment or inconvenience. Under no circumstance will guests be issued keys, access cards, roll away beds or mattresses.
   b. Visitor Bathroom Use - Visitors must be escorted to public restroom facilities in the lobby of each building.
   c. Escort - Guests (of any gender) must be escorted by a host at all times while in the residence halls. Both guests and their host will be held responsible for the conduct of their visitors. Residents are responsible for any violations that occur within their rooms, regardless of whether or not they are physically present.

11. Opposite Gender Restroom – Students of the opposite gender are not permitted to use community restrooms. See also, Visitor Bathroom Use section.
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12. Keys/Access Card Policy – It is a violation of housing policy to misuse a lockout key/access card. Misuse includes giving a key or access card to a guest or visitor. For Texas Tech University’s policy on Unauthorized Entry, Possession, or Use, please see section B.12. in the Code of Student Conduct.

13. Selling, Solicitation, and Printed Materials – Advertisements, sales, displays, or distributions of publications on campus are not permitted without approval, unless provided for by University policy or law. Only university departments and recognized student organizations with prior approval are allowed to sell in the residence halls. Neither residents nor off-campus sales persons are permitted to solicit room-to-room, through the mailboxes or through the posting of flyers. Please report the presence of door-to-door salespersons in the residence hall to the hall office or a staff member. Residence hall students may post flyers to sell personal items, but need to contact the hall office for designated locations to post flyers.
   a. Student rooms may not be used for commercial purposes.
   b. Student organizations wishing to post flyers within the residence halls must provide advertisements through the Residence Life Office in Wiggins.

The Selling, Solicitation, and Printed Materials policy for Texas Tech University is in Part VIII of the Student Handbook.

14. Sports in the Residence Halls – Sports are not allowed in the hallways or public areas of a residence hall. This policy applies to skateboards, roller blades, bikes or objects rolled along the floor. Bicycles may not be ridden in the residence halls, see the University Parking Services Rules and Regulations 8A.

15.Courtesy and Quiet Hours – Quiet hours are designated from 10 PM to 10 AM Sunday – Thursday and 12 AM (Midnight) to 10 AM Friday and Saturday. In order to create an environment conducive to studying and privacy, courtesy hours are in effect 24 hours a day. This means that any noise should not interfere with the rights of others. This means that each individual should be aware of the impact of their behaviors on others. Should a student indicate that the noise is bothersome; the individual should comply with the request to alter the behavior and noise.