



Housing Policies Quick Guide 2021-2022

Description: This Quick Guide is a summary of the Standards of Residence, residential conduct policies to which all residents must adhere. **Please note that if there are any unforeseen disagreements between this summary and the Standards of Residence, the Standards of Residence will take precedence.** Visit [Conduct and Handbook](#) for further information related to conduct and policies. The complete Standards of Residence are in the Housing Handbook.

Remember, in addition to the policies contained in this Quick Guide:

- If something is illegal off-campus, it's illegal on-campus. University property does not insulate you from being accountable for your actions.
- As a student on PSU's campus, you must adhere to all policies in the [PSU Student Code of Conduct](#).

University Housing and Residence Life Policies

The following actions are prohibited:

Noise and Disruptive Behavior

Engaging in noisy, disorderly, or disruptive behavior:

- Interfering with another resident's reasonable ability to sleep, study, or be present in one's own room or residence hall without disruption
- Violating the University's Quiet-Hours policy, which defines Quiet-Hours as 10:00pm to 8:00am every night (except during "Study Week" (the week before finals) and Finals Week when Quiet Hours are 7:00pm to 5:00pm -- 22 hours), or courtesy hours which are 24 hours a day
- Failure to reasonably comply with requests from any community member to reduce the impact of your noise or disruption

Alcohol

Consuming, possessing, or being under the influence of alcohol while under the age of 21:

- Possessing or being in the presence of alcohol paraphernalia while under the age of 21
- Being in the presence of alcohol consumption while under the age of 21
- Detectable and/or disruptive alcohol intoxication regardless of age
- Possession of alcohol in a living space belonging to resident(s) under the age of 21
- Consumption of alcohol in areas other than an enclosed residential room
- Being in the presence of illegal possession or use of alcohol

Drugs

- The possession, use, sale, or distribution of any drug, drug paraphernalia, or controlled substance prohibited by state or federal law. This prohibition includes the possession, use, sale, or distribution of marijuana in any form.
- Being under the influence of a drug or other substances prohibited by state or federal law. This prohibition includes marijuana in any form.
- Being in the presence of unlawful drug use or possession of drug paraphernalia as defined by state or federal law. This prohibition includes marijuana in any form.
- Medicinal marijuana use or possession on campus.
- The unlawful use or abuse of prescription drugs or the dangerous use of over-the-counter products.
- Possession, manufacturing, or use of K2, Salvia, Spice, or psychoactive herbal products.

Failure to Comply

Residents are required to comply with official requests or directives of University Staff and Officials. Residents must not interfere, obstruct, or provide false information to staff performing their duties.

Smoking

- Smoking any substance by any means and/or with any smoking device
- The use of electronic cigarettes or vaporizers
- The use or possession of hookahs
- The use or possession of any smoking apparatus or tool

Building Access

- Hosting or giving access to anyone who is unapproved or trespassed from entry to residence hall spaces
- Providing access to non-residents or anyone who should not be in a given residential or common space without approval
- Unauthorized possession, duplication, or use of University Housing keys
- Misuse of an electronic access card or security feature
- Unauthorized entry into any secured or restricted space

Fire Equipment, Code, and Procedures

- Failing to immediately evacuate during a general alarm
- Causing the building or floor to go into general alarm without just cause
- Tampering with or damaging fire equipment
- Attaching anything to a sprinkler, blocking or covering sprinklers or smoke detectors
- Obstruction of clear egress or accessible movement from room, hallway, or building
- Covering more than 50% of door or wall with combustible materials

Flammable Materials and Fire Safety

- Setting or fueling a fire of any size and/or purposefully creating smoke
- Storing flammable or combustible liquids or gasses is prohibited. Please review the Standards of Residence for guidelines on acceptable and prohibited flammable materials.
- Possession of incendiary or explosive materials, including fireworks, live ammunition, etc.
- Possession and/or the burning of candles, incense, herbs, and/or oils
- Leaving any cooking device unattended while in use, and/or failing to provide adequate ventilation while cooking
- Exposing heat sources to combustible or flammable materials

- Possession or use of appliances or electrical equipment that present a fire risk due to open heating elements or overtaxing electrical systems. Please review details regarding acceptable and prohibited appliances in our full policy handbook.

Collusion

Inciting, assisting, facilitating, being in the presence of, or acquiescing in the engagement of any violation of the Standards of Residence, PSU Code of Conduct, or law is prohibited.

Weapons

- Possession of a weapon, firearm, or dangerous item
- Possession of an object with a blade longer than four (4) inches or ten (10) centimeters
- Using any object in a manner that could cause physical harm or undue mental stress
- Failure to report the known presence of an unlawful weapon, firearm, or dangerous item

Property Damage

- Causing, or attempting to cause, damage, destruction, alteration, or defacement to property of the University, a group, or an individual
- Vandalism of property, decorations, or signage

Theft

- Attempted or actual theft of property or services
- Possession of stolen property, removal, or repossession of university or personal property, decorations, or signage

Endangering Behavior

Negligently, recklessly, or intentionally causing physical harm, including:

- Direct or indirect threats or intimidation
- Behavior that creates undue mental stress or emotional harm to any person
- Abusive treatment of residents, guests, or staff members, or any behavior that results in a hostile work, living, or academic environment
- Hazing – actions or situations that produce mental or physical discomfort, embarrassment, or ridicule

Covid-19 Endangering Behavior

- Intentionally violating someone's personal space
- Not wearing a face mask while in residence hall spaces that are not your room
- Hosting a guest that is not wearing a face mask when walking through the building. Residents are responsible for the behavior of their guests.
- Not adhering to lounge/community kitchen space restrictions
- Exhibiting non-compliant behavior towards University Housing & Residence Life staff members or student leaders whose role it is to enforce Covid-19 related policies and protocol

Domestic Partners, Spouses, Care-Givers, and Dependents

Failure to register, be approved for, and be assigned an acceptable space in order to have a domestic partner, spouse, care-giver, or dependents cohabiting space.

Pets (Service Animals and Support Animals are not pets)

Possession of a pet(s). Pets are different from Emotional Support Animals and Service Animals. Fish in 10-gallon tanks or less (one tank per room/unit) is allowed.

Housing Operations and Services

- Misuse, obstruction, disruption, or abuse of housing services, space, or personnel
- Misappropriating the time and attention of Housing and Residence Life staff

Lock-outs

Exceeding three lock-outs within a 30-day time period

Wireless and wired networks

Use of any device that provides a Wi-Fi network or that may interfere with PSU's Wi-Fi networks is not permitted. Personal wireless networks cause degradation to PSU's residential Wi-Fi. See the detailed policy in "Campus wired and wireless network access, Internet, and Web Communities" on p. 10 for details on acceptable and unacceptable wireless devices.

Use of wired network switches or hubs on PSU's network is not permitted.

Wired network routers are allowed on PSU's network, so long as it has no wireless capability or the wireless capability has been completely turned off. Residents are prohibited from operating any web or file servers on PSU's network.

Devices found to be in violation of these policies are automatically identified by the Office of Information Technology. Severe or repeated violations may result in student conduct charges. PSU reserves the right to confiscate these devices as well.