Dormitory Fire and Decoration Regulations
2024-2025

For safety, and for the care and enjoyment of our buildings and in order to comply with local and state requirements, students are asked to read, appreciate and follow these regulations below. In cases of uncertainty or when exceptions may seem necessary, please consult with dormitory faculty members who may refer you to the deans of students.

A dorm room is considered a place of study and students are encouraged to arrange their rooms in a comfortable manner conducive to studying. Furniture and decorations are permitted so long as they are within the parameters outlined below. **All students must maintain a bed, desk and bureau in their room**. Furniture or appliances deemed excessive, or are distractions to studying, may be asked to be removed by the dorm faculty member. Items that do not bear state fire regulation tagging are not permitted.

The following items are <u>prohibited</u> from student rooms and dormitory living:

- High intensity lamps, such as halogen lamps
- Furniture and tapestries labeled with anything other than Technical Bulletin 117-2013: Technical Bulletin 117 items are not acceptable (see example of tag compliance at the end of this document).
- Torn furniture is not acceptable.
- Any open flame (cigarettes, matches, lighters, candles, incense, etc.)
- Cooking and heating devices, air conditioners, space heaters, gaming systems* and monitors larger than 24 inches
- Pets of any kind, including fish or living creatures contained in an aquarium or similar container
- The use of alcoholic drink containers or drug-related imagery to decorate rooms
- Decorations that do not align with our anti-racism statement

Further safety, decoration and room considerations:

- Wires, including those of holiday lights, may not pass through windows or run across walkways inside or outside of the dorm. Extension wires should rest on the floor and not be placed under rugs.
- Sprinkler pipes, lighting fixtures and electrical outlets must be kept completely free of attachments and 18 inches of clear space must be maintained in and around all sprinkler heads and sprinkler piping.
- **Nothing may be attached to the ceiling (tapestries, decorations, etc.).**
- All doors leading to staircases must be kept closed. Do not prop them open with bricks, fasteners, rope, fire extinguishers, etc.
- Hallways, staircases, aisles, doors from rooms, interconnecting loft-room doors, etc. must be free from obstruction. All room doors must open 90 degrees.
- Furniture to be arranged so a 36-inch-wide egress path is maintained from the dorm room.
- Furniture must not block window openings.
- Furniture must not block heating elements/radiators.
- Fire extinguishers must be left where mounted. They should not be discharged except in an emergency. If a fire extinguisher is discharged, please report it to your dormitory faculty member.
- Smoke detectors must remain active at all times. Do not disable smoke detectors for any reason.

- Beds may only be lofted if the furniture is intended for that purpose or by permission of a dormitory faculty member.
- The use of thumb tacks, nails, scotch tape or any kind of adhesive or glue almost inevitably leads to damage to paint, plaster and wood and is for this reason prohibited. No holes may be made, and no hooks, nails or screws may be driven into any surfaces. The only exceptions are as follows:
  a. Thumb tacks (but not larger tacks or nails) may be used on the top of picture moldings in all dormitories. Additionally, tacks may be used on walls of dorms with barn siding. Molding hooks and other materials for facilitating wall hangings may be obtained at the school store.
  b. In Merriman Dormitory (upstairs only), masking tape may be used on the laminated walls.
- Window screens must be left in windows and not be removed for any reason.

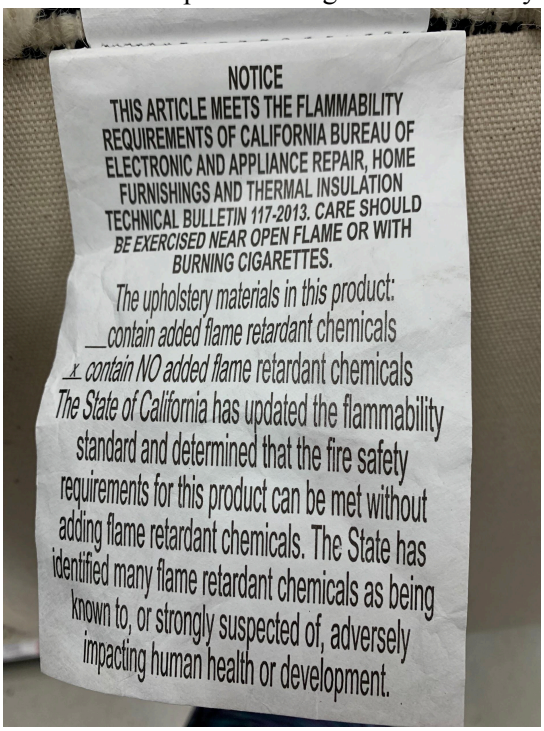
Furniture and decoration regulations:

Per the North Andover Fire Department and state regulations, the following regulations must be followed for all furniture and room decorations:

- Wall decorations, inclusive of bulletin boards, paper/posters and fabrics, cannot exceed 20 percent of the total wall surface per NFPA 701.
- Fabric wall hangings to be labeled in accordance with Test Method 1 or Test Method 2 of NFPA 701. Unlabeled fabric wall hangings are prohibited.
- Furniture must meet the flammability standards outlined below and must include labeling/tags provided by the manufacturer.

The requirements of California Technical Bulletin 117-2013, Requirements, Test Procedure and Apparatus for Testing the Smolder Resistance of Materials Used in Upholstered Furniture.

This is an example of the tag that is necessary to be on furnishings that meet the standard.



*Students with 10 p.m. check-in are permitted to have gaming systems in their rooms. Gaming systems are allowed in dorm common rooms.