



Hilltopics Handbook for Residence Hall Living

Abandoned Property

Any personal items abandoned after the student moves out, HRL staff will dispose of after 10 business days or by the close of each semester, whichever occurs first. This policy also applies to abandoned property recovered from residence hall public areas.

Adhesives

Adhesives including but not limited to double sided tape, contact paper, carpet tape, duct tape, led strip lighting, etc. may not be used on University walls, furniture, windows or floors. Students will be charged for any damage caused by adhesives or residue.

Alcoholic Beverages

The University prohibits the possession, furnishing, or use of alcoholic beverages by residents or guests in the residence halls. The University has adopted a Parental Notification Policy for students found in violation of alcohol or drug policies, who are under 21 years of age. Residents must comply with all federal, state, and local laws governing the use and possession of alcoholic beverages.

Alcoholic Containers

Alcoholic containers and items used for consumption are not permitted in the residence halls. This includes items used as decoration or displayed. Items in violation will be confiscated by hall staff and disposed of unless the student makes arrangements to collect the items and remove them from the hall within 72 hours. An alcohol container is defined as any container (including packaging) that has contained alcohol or is labeled to have contained alcohol at any point. An item used for consumption includes drinkware and/or glassware that is used for alcohol consumption, including but not limited to shot glasses, martini glasses, wine glasses, beer steins, etc.

Appliances

Appliances used in the residence halls must be UL (Underwriters Laboratories) listed. UL indicates a product has been tested and meets UL's safety and sustainability standards. No cooking is permitted in a resident's room with the exception of approved microwave ovens (cannot exceed 1 cubic foot and 1000 watts) and coffee pots. All other cooking appliances must be used in the kitchens (George Foreman grills, hot plates, toasters, toaster ovens, air fryers, etc.). Halogen lamps, sun lamps, lava lamps, space heaters and gas appliances are not permitted for safety reasons. Irons should not be left unattended. Ironing boards need to be used for all ironing. Ironing mattresses, carpet or university furniture may result in a charge for damage. Dehumidifiers are permitted if they have an auto-off feature.

Residents are permitted to bring a refrigerator, provided it does not exceed 5.0 cubic feet. We recommend Energy Star Appliances.

Bed Bunking

Beds cannot be bunked in residence hall rooms. Most residence halls have beds that can be lofted using the furniture provided. Please speak to staff for assistance. Bed risers are prohibited.

Bed Guardrails

Students with adjustable-height beds capable of being raised more than 36 inches off the ground have been provided with one guardrail. Guardrails have been installed by Western Kentucky University Housing and Residence Life at no cost to the student and are required to remain installed when beds are raised more than 36 inches (from the bottom of the frame) off the ground. Guardrails are considered university property and are not to be removed from student rooms.

Bicycles/Bicycle Racks

Bicycle racks are located around the residence halls. You may choose to store your bicycle in your room as long as it does not interfere with the entrance or exit to your room and does not inconvenience your roommate. Care should be taken to not cause damage when entering or exiting the residence hall with a bicycle. Bicycles may not be stored in hallways, stairwells, kitchens, or any other common area. Gas powered vehicles cannot be stored in the residence halls.

Bomb Threat

If a bomb threat is announced in your residence hall, follow the directions provided by your hall staff and/or the Police. It is important that you remain calm and that you cooperate fully.

Bulletin Boards/Postings

There is a public bulletin board in the lobby of each residence hall, which can be used for posting information. Non-hall-related information needs to be approved by the residence hall director. Staff members use other bulletin boards throughout the hall for programming and informational purposes.

Ceilings

Items should not be hung from or attached to ceilings. Ceiling tiles should not be tampered with or moved for any reason including running cables or data cords, hanging objects or decorations, or storing items. At no time should a sprinkler head be blocked by any item in the room.

Circuit Breaker-Fuses

Contact your residence hall staff if you experience a power loss in your room due to a tripped circuit breaker. Under no circumstance are students permitted to reset circuit breakers. Upon determination of the problem, you may be asked to make adjustments in the use of appliances or electrical equipment.

Cohabitation

The Department of Housing & Residence Life prohibits cohabitation of guests within a residence hall room. Cohabitation exists when a person who is not assigned to a space uses that room as if they were living there. Cohabitation is defined as:

- Any stay of more than three consecutive overnights (12 AM- 8 AM)
- Any stay of four or more overnights in any seven-day period
- 30 or more hours checked into a building during any seven-day period
- Any combination or number of visits that is deemed excessive by a professional staff member of WKU Housing & Residence Life

Residents should always work out an agreement with a roommate for overnight guests. Guests must remain with the resident at all times.

Computer Equipment/TopperTech

Each residence hall room is equipped with both hard wired and wireless internet. For more information or for troubleshooting, call the ITS Helpdesk at (270) 745-7000 between the hours of 8AM-4:30PM Monday through Friday. www.wku.edu/its/service-desk.php

Concrete Blocks

Concrete blocks are not permitted in the residence halls.

Confiscated Property

Items in violation will be confiscated by hall staff and disposed of unless the student makes arrangements to collect the items and remove them from the hall within 72 hours.

Certain items including but not limited to alcohol, alcohol containers, tobacco or nicotine products or delivery devices, and fake IDs may be disposed of and not returned to the student.

- **Darts and Dart Boards**

Darts and Dart Boards are not permitted in the residence halls.

- **Drugs**

Illegal use, possession, or distribution of drugs, controlled substances or drug paraphernalia may be cause for dismissal from the residence hall, as well as other disciplinary and police action. The University has adopted a Parental Notification Policy for students found in violation of the drug policy.

Electrical Outlets

The following policies concerning the use of electrical outlets must be followed:

- In each duplex electrical wall outlet, no more than four appliances can be plugged in at any one time.
- All major appliances (refrigerator, microwave) must be either plugged directly into the wall outlet or into a heavy-duty extension cord plugged directly into the wall outlet. Multi-outlet extension cords are prohibited.
- Six-way adapters, power taps, and electrical bars are prohibited and will be removed by the HRL staff.
- Use of surge protectors for computer equipment, TVs, game consoles, and sound equipment is permitted. Surge protectors must be UL (Underwriters Laboratories) listed to qualify. UL indicates a product has been tested and meets UL's safety and sustainability standards.

Students are encouraged to remove appliances from the outlets when finished (eg: hair dryers and curling irons). All appliances draw energy even if not on and this will protect your appliances in the event of a surge.

Elevator Safety

Elevators are provided for your convenience. Anyone found tampering with or vandalizing elevators may be subject to restitution, disciplinary sanctions, and/or criminal prosecution. Misuse or abuse of the

elevators will be considered criminal mischief. Only authorized personnel are allowed in the elevator shaft. Students who drop keys, IDs or other items down the elevator shaft may be billed for their retrieval.

Fighting

Fighting or any physical altercations is prohibited in the residence halls.

Fire Alarms

All fire alarms should be regarded as actual fires. The university and state law requires all residents and their guests to adhere to the fire safety regulations of the campus. Failure to evacuate is not only a safety hazard but is a violation of university policy and state law and may result in legal or disciplinary action.

When the alarm, shouted warning, or the sensation of smoke or fire has alerted you, adhere to the following:

- If there is smoke in the room, keep low to the floor.
- Before passing through any door, feel the doorknob. If it is hot, do not open the door. Before opening a door, brace yourself against the door and open it slightly. If heat and smoke are present, close the door and stay in the room.
- If you cannot leave the room, open the window. If trapped, attract the fire department by hanging an object out the window. If there is a phone in your room, call WKU Police 745-2548 or 911 and give the room number and specific location.
- If you can leave a room, close the door behind you.
- Go to the nearest exit or stairwell. Do not use the elevator.
- If the nearest exit is blocked by fire, heat or smoke, go to an alternate exit.
- If all exits are blocked, go back to your room, open the windows, and attract the fire department.

After evacuating the building, move to the designated meeting location. Emergency personnel and equipment will be maneuvering around the building.

Follow the directions of fire, police, and hall personnel.

You may reenter the building only after the fire and police officials have given their approval.

Fire Safety

- The sounding of false fire alarms and tampering with firefighting or safety equipment including extinguishers, smoke detectors, sprinklers, exit signs, extinguishing powder, door and fire alarms is prohibited.
- Tampering with or removal of posted fire evacuation signs will result in disciplinary procedures as well as restitution for the replacement signs.
- The use of open-coil, open plate devices, open flames, ember devices, oil lamps and incense are prohibited.
- Candles and candle warmers are not permitted in residence halls.
- Hallways should be clear of obstructions including, but not limited to, welcome mats, decorations, moving boxes, etc.

Furniture

Some bedroom furniture can be locked. One of the dresser drawers has a clasp on it and students can supply their own lock to secure personal possessions. The student is responsible for keeping up with the key or combination. If a lock needs to be removed by maintenance, there will be a charge assessed, and proof of contents will be required.

Gambling

Gambling, in any form, is prohibited on campus.

HVAC Usage

Each room comes equipped with its own Heating and Air Conditioning (HVAC) unit. To ensure the units operate properly, residents are prohibited from placing any items/furniture directly in front of the unit that would block the air intake. Additionally, residents are also prohibited from placing anything inside of the unit, including the vents, as this may block air coming from the unit.

HVAC Best Practices: www.wku.edu/housing/airquality/bestpractices.php

ID Card

Students are expected to carry their valid student identification card at all times and to present it upon request by University officials including, but not limited to University Police, faculty, Housing & Residence Life staff, and other staff of the institution. The University may confiscate any ID card that has been misused, duplicated, or altered. Cards may be retained temporarily while their validity is checked. A student may possess only one ID card. Use of the ID card by any person other than the person to whom it was issued or use of the card under false pretenses is a violation of the Code of Conduct.

Possession of false identification (fake ID) is prohibited. False identification cards may be confiscated by WKU staff. In addition, the misrepresentation of any person in any WKU residence hall through false identification may be referred to the WKU Police Department for investigation and possible criminal charges.

WKU ID Center: www.wku.edu/idcenter

Keys

Each student is issued one key at check-in. Keys are to be returned at the end of the academic year, and/or when the student moves out. Failure to return the key is considered a lost key and the student will be charged \$40.

If a student loses their key, they should immediately report the lost key to the front desk. One spare key to each room is immediately available for checkout, and a student has three days to return the spare key if the original key is found.

For security, if a key is permanently lost or key is stolen, a key core change can be requested immediately. A charge of \$40 will be billed to the student through Housing. Payment is due at the time of billing, and failure to pay will incur a transcript hold. WKU Apartment keys will be billed at actual cost to the student.

Kitchens

Kitchens are provided on each floor of the residence halls. For safety and sanitation reasons, food cannot be left unattended when cooking, personal trash is not to be left in the kitchens, and dishes and cooking supplies cannot be left or stored in the kitchens. Items left for an extended period of time may be discarded.

Laundries

Laundry facilities with washers and dryers are available in all residence halls. Laundry machines are available to use at any time, with no additional cost. Clothing or laundry supplies including, but not limited to detergent, fabric softener, hampers, and baskets that are left unattended for an extended period of time may be discarded by HRL staff as abandoned property.

www.wku.edu/housing/resources/laundry.php

Lobbies

The lobby area is available to the residents and their guests 24 hours a day when the building is open. If residents or guests in the lobby become loud and unruly, they will be asked to leave the building. No furniture in the lobby should be removed from the lobby.

Lofts

Homemade lofts are not permitted in the residence halls. Most residence halls have beds that can be lofted safely using the furniture provided. Bed risers are prohibited.

www.wku.edu/housing/maintenance

Motorized/Electronic Vehicles

Motorized vehicles and electronic skateboards, including hover boards, self-balancing scooters, and other similar equipment are prohibited from being used, stored and/or charged in all university-managed residence halls and apartments.

Motorized/Electric Drones

Motorized and electronic drones are prohibited from being used, stored, and/or charged in all university-managed residence halls, apartments and on-campus.

University drone policy: www.wku.edu/ehs/documents/drone_policy_final.pdf

Part-Time Students

Residents, who may need to drop to part-time status, must get approval from HRL to remain in residence halls. Residents who are only enrolled part-time may be asked to leave the halls at any time if they are involved in violations of University Policy.

Pest Control

The residence halls are treated for most pests and insects on a regular basis, but if your room needs to be sprayed, submit a maintenance request and it will be taken care of on an individual basis. To minimize the chance of pests, keep your room and kitchens clean and store food in closed containers.

Maintenance requests: www.wku.edu/housing/maintenance

Pets

Pets, with the exception of fish, are not allowed in residence halls. All aggressive and poisonous fish are prohibited. Each resident may have ONE fish tank under 10 gallons. Touching, harassing, injuring or killing any wildlife on campus is prohibited.

Cleaning and damage fees will be added after the space is reviewed by Housing/Facilities Operations staff.

Professionally trained service dogs and emotional support animals are not considered pets.

The prohibition of pets in residential communities does not apply to the use of an assistive animal. If you require the use of an assistive animal, you must contact _____ to ensure your compliance with the proper registration and approval procedures. HRL will communicate final approval prior to the assistive animal moving into the residential space. Failure to comply with the pet policy and guidelines will result in referral through the conduct process. HRL are authorized to enter spaces to verify the presence of an unauthorized animal.

Quiet Hours

- 24 Hour Courtesy Hours - courtesy hours are in effect at all times. If someone asks you to decrease the noise level in your room, you should comply with that request.
- Quiet Hours are observed from 10:00pm to 8:00am Sunday-Thursday and Midnight-8:00am Friday-Saturday. Quiet hours mean that there should be no noise heard outside your room with the door

closed.

- During finals week, 24-hour quiet hours are in effect.
- Unruly guests may be asked to leave the building by hall staff if they refuse to comply with the request of staff or residents to decrease the noise level.
- Stereo equipment, amplifiers, and/or speakers may be required to be removed from a room as a conduct outcome.

Radio Transmissions

Radio transmissions are not permitted in the residence halls.

Roommate Agreement

The Roommate Lifestyle Agreement is an agreement drafted by and agreed to by a roommate(s) pair. All students must complete a roommate agreement each time a new roommate is assigned to the space. Roommate agreement will be completed with your RA and will be reviewed at the beginning of each semester or as often as needed.

Roommate Lifestyle Agreements outline the standards roommates will work to uphold throughout the duration of their roommate relationship. Roommate Lifestyle Agreements help roommates determine their expectations of one another, encourage communication between roommate pairs, and can help resolve conflicts through a process called mediation. Roommate Lifestyle Agreements are introduced to roommate pairs during the first-floor meeting of the semester and are required for all new students.

Roommate pairs who experience conflict are encouraged to try to resolve the conflict by openly and calmly communicating. Roommate Lifestyle Agreements can be renegotiated and updated at any time by roommate pairs. Roommate pairs unable to negotiate conflict on their own are encouraged to seek out the assistance of their Resident Assistants and/or Residence Hall Directors.

Safety Check

Safety checks are to ensure the safety and sanitation conditions of each room. They are conducted by members of the residence hall staff and take place the first Wednesday of every month, except for December and January*. Safety check inspections take place between the hours of 10:00 am and 10:00 pm on the scheduled days. It is not necessary for you to be present during these checks.

**Rooms are checked during the week of winter break closedown in December. Occupied extended living spaces will be checked on the first Wednesday that the university is open during January.*

Security

Each residence hall desk is staffed 24 hours a day and closed-circuit cameras are used to monitor entrances and exits to each building. Any attempt to circumvent the security measures is a violation of policy and may result in disciplinary action up to and including removal from the residence halls.

Smoking Policy

Western Kentucky University is a 100% smoke & tobacco-free campus. [WKU Policy # 0.2110](#)

WKU Housing and Residence Life prohibits the possession, furnishing, or use of tobacco/alternative nicotine products in the residence halls. Tobacco/alternative nicotine products include, but are not limited to, cigarettes (traditional, e-cigarettes and vaping mechanisms) chew, nicotine pouches, pipes, cigars, hookah and water pipes. Residents must comply with all federal, state, and local laws and University policies governing the use and possession of these products.

Solicitation/Commercial Activity

Commercial solicitation is prohibited. It is prohibited for vendors and organizations seeking funds, services or memberships to solicit or attempt to sell products in the halls. However, solicitation for certain worthy causes or those in the best interest of the university community may be authorized to take place in the main lobby area with approval. No one is allowed to solicit door-to-door. Residents are not permitted to operate any type of business in their room.

Sprinklers

Students are prohibited from touching the sprinkler system, including but not limited to being struck by an object, having items hung from the sprinkler, etc.

Additionally, no object should be placed near the sprinkler to prevent the effective function of the sprinkler system to suppress a fire.

Tornado Procedures

If a tornado warning or alarm is issued, it is important for you to move from your room to a designated safe area, away from the top floors of the residence halls and any areas having exterior windows or glass. Your hall staff will direct you to the designated safe area in your hall. Timeliness and cooperation are of utmost importance. Ask members of your hall staff for more information regarding tornado procedures.

Trash Removal

You are responsible for the removal of all personal trash from the building. Trash liners can be obtained at your lobby desk. All halls have a compactor located outside. All room trash should be taken to the compactor. Dispose of carpet and other large items in the designated areas. Failure to properly dispose of trash will result in disciplinary sanctions and/or charges.

Unauthorized Guest

For any WKU student to be considered an authorized guest, they must adhere to all visitation procedures of the hall in which they are visiting, check-in/out procedures and being properly escorted. Residents are responsible for the actions of their guests.

Vandalism/Damage

Anyone caught damaging university or residence hall property will be subject to disciplinary sanction, possible legal prosecution, restitution, and may be subject to removal from campus housing.

Video Surveillance

Residents are not permitted to install any camera systems to capture activity inside or outside of their residence hall room. This includes cameras in your private or shared living space, as well as doorbell or peephole cameras placed to view activity outside your residence hall door. For questions, please see the WKU ITS Video Surveillance Systems policy: www.wku.edu/policies/docs/index.php?policy=256.

Visitation

WKU Residence Halls have 24-hour visitation.

- All guests must check in at the desk with a WKU ID or valid driver's license.
- Guests must be escorted by a resident when in the building and must use the designated restroom.
- Guests should not be left in the building while the resident is not there.
- The resident must check out each guest as they leave the building.
- Residents are responsible for the actions of their guests and are highly encouraged to talk to their roommate about guests and visitors.

Prospective Student Visitation:

Student recruits (athletic, admissions, or other University programs) need to register with HRL at least 48 hours prior to the visit. There is not a charge for a prospective student to stay overnight in WKU on- campus housing, so long as the prospective student (or someone on the behalf of the prospective student) has scheduled an WKU campus visit with HRL ahead of time.

Underage Guests:

- No overnight guests under the age of 18 are allowed.
- No guests of the opposite gender under the age of 18 will be checked in unless they are a WKU student with a valid WKU ID.
- Babysitting is not permitted.
- Infants and minor children must be accompanied by their parents and may visit for short periods of time (between the hours of 8am-5pm).

www.wku.edu/housing/visitation

Waterbeds

Waterbeds are not allowed in residence halls.

Weapons

Possession or use of firearms, explosives (including fireworks), dangerous chemicals or other dangerous weapons or brandishing of any weapon or any other object in a menacing or threatening manner on institutionally controlled property is prohibited. Weapons may be defined as any object or substance designed to inflict a wound, cause injury or incapacitate. Weapons may include but are not limited to: all firearms, pellet guns, tasers, stun guns, paintball guns, slingshots, martial arts devices, switchblades, swords, decorative knives and clubs. Weapons will be confiscated by HRL staff.

Windows

Objects are not to be thrown out of windows and screens are not to be tampered with. Lights and other items should not be displayed in windows.

Tampering or removal of window safety equipment may result in disciplinary sanctions and a \$40.00 charge to replace the damaged equipment.

