

University Housing and Residence Life Policy Guide

2026-2027

Welcome to University Housing! We strive to create a safe, welcoming, and inclusive environment where all residents can thrive. To do that, we rely on community members to uphold policies that benefit all residents. By electronically signing your [University Housing License Agreement](#) to live on campus, you have agreed to follow the policies outlined by said agreement, as well as those outlined within this document. As a Cal Poly student, you are also responsible for following the [Student Code of Conduct](#). Finally, all cadets are also required to abide by the [Cadet Rules and Regulations](#).

University Housing Staff will document alleged violations of these University Housing policies and the Student Code of Conduct. Alleged violations will be reviewed by the Office of Student Rights & Responsibilities (OSRR). Learn about Cal Poly's Student Conduct Process and potential outcomes by reviewing the [OSRR website](#).

All students are subject to additional applicable fees/fines deemed necessary by University Housing, if involved in a policy violation as outlined by the University, Housing and Dining License Agreement, University Housing Policies, Student Code of Conduct, Corps of Cadets Rules and Regulations, and California/Federal Law. These fees/fines may coincide with or be in addition to outcomes and sanctions determined by the OSRR, Cadet Leadership and Development (CLD), and University Police.

Alcohol and Other Drugs (AOD) Amnesty Protocol

In California, there are certain legal protections when one calls 911 in good faith to help with a drug or alcohol emergency. (For example, Cal. Health & Safety Code §11376.5.) If a person is experiencing a drug-related overdose, and another person seeks medical assistance to help that person, neither can be charged with a crime for simple possession or being under the influence.

The purpose of the Cal Poly AOD protocol aligns with the intention of such laws. The Cal Poly AOD amnesty protocol removes barriers when seeking help for community members in potentially life-threatening situations involving alcohol and other drugs or substances. This encourages a shared responsibility among all Cal Poly students to call for help without fear of disciplinary consequences. This protocol removes campus punitive sanctions for first-time infractions for use of alcohol and/or other drugs and substances for both the person making the call for help as well as the person experiencing the medical emergency. This protocol applies to medical emergencies or suspected medical emergencies. You may review the AOD Amnesty Protocol [here](#).

University Housing Policies

1. Alcohol

Residents may not possess alcohol or alcohol-related paraphernalia within University Housing. Residents are to remove themselves from situations where any of the policies below are being violated.

The following is prohibited for all residents:

- 1.1 Use, manufacturing, distribution of alcoholic beverages, public intoxication, being in the presence of, or possession of alcohol beverages in or around University Housing communities.
- 1.2 Simulated drinking games (e.g., water pong, flip cup) or drinking games.
- 1.3 Collection or display of alcohol containers or paraphernalia, including, but not limited to: cans, bottles, flasks, shot glasses, empty containers of alcohol, beer bongs, kegs, and alcohol boxes.

2. Animals/Pets

Residents are expected to treat animals with respect; cruelty or abuse of any animal is not tolerated.

Residents with an Emotional Support Animal (ESA) or Service Animal (SA) must be approved through the Disability Resource Center (DRC) and register their animal with University Housing prior to move-in. Please visit the Disability Resource Center [website for more information](#).

Residents are permitted to have a fish tank not exceeding ten gallons in total volume per room or apartment.

- 2.1 Possession of pets within University Housing is prohibited. Pets must be removed within 24 hours.
- 2.2 Only approved emotional support or service animals are allowed within University Housing. Unregistered emotional support animals or pets must be removed from University Housing premises within 24 hours and cannot return until the emotional support animal is approved through the Disability Resource Center and University Housing.
- 2.3 Residents with an approved emotional support or service animal must follow all University Housing agreements and campus policies in regard to their responsibilities, animal care and treatment and documentation requirements.

3. Appliances

Appliances such as clocks, lamps, hair-dryers, computers, stereos, televisions, and the like are permitted in student rooms and public areas of the facilities, provided the resident ensures the following:

- Appliances are [UL-approved](#).
- The wiring of appliances is safe and plugged into an electrical outlet utilizing a surge protector.
- Appliances are turned off when not in use.
- Requests from other residents or staff regarding noise from appliances are respected.

- 3.1 Use of items such as air fryers, electric fry pans, coffee pots, toasters, toaster ovens, rice cookers and blenders are not allowed to be plugged in or used in student rooms. They are only permitted for use in the kitchen area of the residence halls and apartments.

4. Building and Room Access

University Housing facilities are accessible by residents, approved guests, and designated employees conducting approved work for the safety and security of residents.

4.1 Residents are issued a key(s) for their room and are not permitted to loan their key or access card to others.

4.2 Residents must ensure that the locking mechanism of their room door is always fully operational. Residents should not tamper with or alter the locking mechanism of the building or room doors.

5. Community Respect & Responsible Action

As reflected in the campus code of conduct, Cal Poly and University Housing are committed to maintaining a safe and healthy living and learning environment for all community members. Students are expected to engage in behavior that is conducive to these expectations.

5.1 Disruptive behavior that has a willful, material, and substantial negative impact on the housing community or that unreasonably impacts the ability of another to live or study is prohibited.

6. Compliance with Staff

Residents are expected to comply with reasonable requests from university staff, including but not limited to Resident Assistants, Residence Life Coordinators, Residence Life staff, and Cal Poly Police Department – particularly in situations involving safety or policy concerns within their room.

6.1 Non-compliance with staff requests, including refusing to provide accurate identification, failing to open doors upon request, or not cooperating during safety or policy-related situations, is prohibited.

7. Cleaning Responsibilities

To ensure a safe and healthy environment, a reasonable level of cleanliness is expected in individual resident rooms. Your assistance in keeping bathrooms, kitchens, and lounges clean is expected by both residents and staff.

7.1 Personal trash, food containers, bottles, magazines, newspapers, and other such items should be disposed of in resident's individual room wastebaskets, the outside dumpsters and recycling bins. Personal trash should not be disposed of in the bathroom, lounge trashcans, or in common entryways or hallways.

7.2 Staff will regularly check kitchen areas to ensure the health and safety of residents. Failure to maintain a reasonable level of cleanliness in any common area may result in a loss of access to that area, relocation to a new residence hall, and/or charges for excessive custodial time.

8. Drugs and Paraphernalia



Drugs are defined as any illegal substance that is not prescribed to an individual by a medical professional. As a drug-free campus, University Housing does not recognize Medicinal Cannabis 215 cards. The following is prohibited in student communities:

8.1 Possession, use, consumption, distribution or sale of any state or federally banned drug. Odor or disruptive behavior attributed to any campus, state, or federally banned drug is also prohibited.

8.2 Possession of paraphernalia, such as pipes, water pipes, bongs, vaporizers, scales, grinders, hookahs, rolling papers, or any other devices created for drug use.

8.3 Selling, distributing, or misusing prescription medication.

9. Electronic Recording Devices

Taking photos or making audio or video recordings without permission in any context in which the person has a reasonable expectation of privacy is prohibited.

Such physical areas on campus include but are not limited to bedrooms, bathrooms, showers and other such areas. Permission must be granted by all persons being photographed or recorded. In a situation in which it is not acceptable to take a picture or recording, it is also not acceptable to publish it. Learn more about Cal Poly's guidelines on the [Use of Electronic Recording Devices](#).

University Housing areas are subject to security video camera recording and recording by UH staff for the purpose of safety, documentation, and property protection.

9.1 Taking photos or making audio or video recordings without the consent of all individuals in areas where there is a reasonable expectation of privacy—such as bedrooms, bathrooms, showers, or similar spaces—is strictly prohibited. This includes both the act of recording and the subsequent publication or distribution of such content.

10. Fire & Life Safety

Residents are encouraged to decorate their rooms. However, for the safety of our community, some items are not allowed in student rooms or apartments. For a complete list of items to bring and to leave behind, see [here](#). Staff will announce themselves and enter rooms to complete mandatory fire, wellness, and health and safety checks at periodic times during the year. Residents who may require special assistance in emergency evacuation situations should contact Disability Resource Center before move-in or as soon thereafter as possible to make arrangements in the event of an emergency. Do not wait for an emergency to occur. To prevent fire and protect the safety of our community, please be mindful of the following regulations:

10.1 Use or possession of items with a heating element in student rooms, including, but not limited to, barbecues, electric grills, hot plates, and space heaters are not permitted. Battery-powered personal transportation devices and their rechargeable batteries must be stored and used in accordance with Section 27.



10.2 Highly flammable materials in student rooms – including, but not limited to, gasoline, industrial cleaning solvents (e.g. benzene, kerosene, trichloroethylene), spray paint, charcoal, lighter fluid, vehicle parts, fuel, and oil – is prohibited.

10.3 Possession of candles, incense, or other flame producing materials is not permitted.

10.4 Blocking any door or emergency exits, including window access, is a fire hazard and is not permitted.

10.5 Tampering with, discharging, or damaging a fire extinguisher when no fire is present is prohibited.

10.6 Residents may not block access to a fire extinguisher.

10.7 Tampering with or damaging fire life safety equipment, including but not limited to sprinkler system, smoke detectors, fire alarms, exit signs, etc. This includes hanging items from any life safety equipment such as pipes, sprinkler heads, pull stations, etc.

10.8 Tampering with or jumping in elevators is prohibited.

11. Furniture

Due to safety concerns, only furniture provided by University Housing may be used in student rooms. Safety rails and ladders are provided by University Housing. For your safety, do not remove the safety rails or ladders. It is expected that residents:

- Use the provided ladders to enter and exit the bed. Face the ladder to enter and exit.
- Do not hang or attach items on the ladders that may cause you to trip and fall when ascending or descending.
- Beds must not block any exit path, doorway, or window opening.
- Students may not bring their own mattress.
- Mattress topper must provide at least 5-inches of clearance between the top of the topper and the top of the rails(s).
- Students must follow safety protocols and are encouraged to report problems and repair needs relating to beds and bed safety equipment. For bed adjustment requests or concerns please contact Residence Life Staff (Resident Assistant, Residence Life Coordinator, or the main Residence Life Office located in Upper Residence Hall).

11.1 All university-owned furniture must be maintained in its assigned area and in specific layout. Lounge furniture is not allowed in individual student rooms, outdoors, nor can be disassembled, lofted, or modified.

11.2 Personal furniture is not permitted in University Housing unless it has been approved as an accommodation through the Disability Resource Center (DRC).

11.3 Furniture or other items may not block doors to rooms or buildings.

11.4 Residents must promptly notify University Housing of any damaged or defective furniture that may pose a safety risk. Failure to report such issues is a violation of housing policy.

12. Gambling

Gambling is defined as wagering or betting on activities played for money, checks, credit, or anything of value, including simulated forms using fake currency, chips, or other substitutes.

12.1 Gambling of any kind is strictly prohibited within University Housing. This includes, but is not limited to, activities involving real money, simulated gambling, or the use of fake currency, chips, or other wagering items.

13. Guests and Overnight Guests

University Housing reserves the right to prohibit guests at any time due to operational and/or public health needs. Notice of any such changes will be provided via Cal Poly email.

Term Definitions:

- A **Resident** is defined as a student officially licensed, as a Licensee, to reside in on-campus housing.
- A **Resident host** is a resident of a room, suite, apartment, or building who invites and/or permits guests to be present in their space or within University Housing.
- A **Guest** is defined as any person visiting any building that they are not officially assigned to live in or given official University approval to access.
 - General solicitation of members of the public through an advertisement, posting or any other format in any medium is not considered a personal invitation under this policy.
- **Overnight Guest:** Any person visiting a space they are not assigned to live in between **11:00 p.m. and 8:00 a.m.**, seven days a week.
- **Cohabitation:** When a guest uses a resident's space as if they live there, indicated by frequent or extended stays, possession of personal belongings, or regular overnight presence.

Note: General solicitations to the public (e.g., advertisements or public postings) do not constitute a personal invitation under this policy.

Guest & Overnight Guest Visitation

The right to sleep, study, and feel comfortable in one's own environment takes precedence over the social desires of a roommate. Roommates should establish norms ahead of any guest's visit. Established guest norms between roommates may include standards for advanced roommate notification, preferred communication methods, and defining block-out dates for guests that best suit the room. These norms should be agreed upon and may be reflected in the roommate agreement. Residence Life Staff are available to help address and create these norms with roommates.

Resident Host Responsibilities:

13.1 Room occupancy is limited to 5 persons per residence hall room. Occupancy may be adjusted based on occupancy needs and public health mandates.

13.2 Resident hosts are responsible for their own actions and the actions of their guests.

13.3 Guests must be accompanied by the resident host at all times while in or around University Housing.

13.4 Resident host must have prior approval from all roommates before hosting any guests.

13.5 Cohabitation is prohibited. Guests may not reside or behave as if they live in the space.

14. Noise

Out of courtesy and respect for fellow residents, individuals are expected to be mindful of their noise levels at all times. Even outside of designated quiet hours, residents and their guests must keep noise at a reasonable level to avoid disrupting others. **To support the academic success of all residents, 24-hour quiet hours are in effect during finals week, beginning at 5 p.m. the day before finals and continuing until all final exams for the term are complete.**

Quiet Hours are in effect:

- Sunday – Thursday from 10 p.m. – 8 a.m.
- Friday – Saturday from 12 a.m. – 10 a.m.

14.1 Noise that disrupts or infringes upon another residents' rights to the quiet enjoyment of their space is prohibited at all times. Residents are expected to promptly comply with reasonable requests from community members or staff to reduce noise.

15. Public Health Guidelines

All residents are required to comply with Cal Poly policies regarding public health, including, but not limited to, face coverings, physical distancing, size of gatherings, testing requirements, vaccination requirements, etc. Updated policies will be communicated via Cal Poly emails and websites.

For more information on the current health concerns, please visit Cal Poly's Campus Health & Wellbeing's website at chw.calpoly.edu.

15.1 Residents are required to comply with all Cal Poly policies regarding public health.

16. Refrigerators and Microwaves

University Housing provides MicroFridge units in all areas. Refrigerator styles vary based upon room types. Additional refrigerators and/or related accommodations must be approved through the Disability Resource Center (DRC).

16.1 Residents are not permitted to have additional mini-refrigerators or microwaves in their room or apartment, unless approved by the DRC.

17. Roommates

Residents are required to accommodate new roommates at any time, with or without advanced notice. University Housing reserves the right to assign a new resident to any available bed space as needed.

17.1 Residents are not permitted to refuse a roommate.

17.2 Residents must keep the vacant side of their room clean, clear, and ready for occupancy at all times.

17.3 Residents are expected to equitably share common areas with their roommates.

18. Room Personalization

University Housing encourages residents to make their assigned living space feel comfortable; however, some décor poses safety risks to the community. Any item that blocks the window or can be seen from the outside of the room should only be placed there for the benefit of the interior space, not the outside space.

18.1 Battery-operated LED string lights are permitted. Any other style of string lights is prohibited.

18.2 Oil lamps (lava lamps) are prohibited.

19. Smoke and Tobacco Free Environment

19.1 Per Executive Order 1108, Cal Poly is a smoke and tobacco-free campus. Smoking and tobacco are not allowed on campus in any form including vaping, chewing, etc.

19.2 Possession, use, and/or consumption of tobacco is prohibited.

20. Solicitation and Business Enterprises

20.1 Operating a business within University Housing is not permitted.

20. Sports

Residents are encouraged to utilize the sporting equipment and spaces provided by the University. Due to the potential for personal injury and property damage, sports in hallways within all University Housing communities are prohibited. Activities that may cause injury, damage property, or disrupt the community - including, but not limited to, ball sports, golf, frisbee, hockey, or similar recreational activities - are prohibited inside University Housing buildings. The intended use of billiards, basketball, table tennis, air hockey, and foosball equipment are permitted in designated areas only.

20.1 Residents must utilize designated areas outside to engage in sports or play.



20.2 Behaviors that are disruptive and potentially dangerous - including, but not limited to, wrestling, boxing, climbing, parkour, slacklining, hammocking, jumping, water sliding, and acrobatics - are only allowed in designated locations.

21. Theft

Theft is the tampering, stealing and/or misuse of personal property in and around University Housing, including vending machines, furniture, walls, and laundry machines. Residents must keep their rooms

locked when not present and are encouraged to obtain renter's insurance. University Housing is not responsible for loss of or damage to personal property.

21.1 Possession of stolen property or property obtained without the direct and expressed permission of the owner is prohibited.

22. Trespassing

Residents are prohibited from entering another resident's room, apartment, or any University Housing facility without direct and expressed permission from an authorized resident. Additionally, residents must not let unknown individuals into the building. Anyone who a resident permits to enter the building will be considered their guest and the resident will be held responsible for that individual's actions.

22.1 Unauthorized entrance into any restricted areas in or around University Housing, such as, staff offices, mechanical rooms, custodial closets, storage areas, rooftops, front desks, other student rooms, and areas marked for private or restricted access is prohibited.

23. Vandalism

Vandalism is defined as an action involving deliberate destruction of, or unintentional damage to, public or private property.

23.1 Damage to any University Housing facility, university-owned property, or personal property is strictly prohibited.

This includes, but is not limited to:

- Defacing, destroying, or tampering with walls, ceilings, furniture, appliances, or fixtures
- Graffiti or marking surfaces without permission
- Breaking windows, damaging doors, or disabling locks
- Misuse or destruction of bulletin boards, whiteboards, or electronic signage
- Removal, defacement, or alteration of flyers or official University Housing signage

Individuals found responsible will be held financially accountable for the damage, in accordance with the University Housing [Fee Schedule](#), and may also face criminal charges and/or disciplinary action. Charges may apply to individuals or to the community when individual responsibility cannot be determined.

24. Weapons

24.1 Weapons (including but not limited to, firearms, blades, airsoft/bb/paintball guns, fireworks, live and discharged ammunition, stun guns, tasers, weapon replicas including costume props, brass/metal knuckles, explosives, martial arts weapons, fake guns, fake knives, replica swords, fencing weapons and color guard rifles) are strictly prohibited.

24.2 Kitchen-style knives are permitted if used for intended purposes in designated kitchen locations.

24.3 Pocketknives must have a maximum blade length limit of 4 inches or less.

25. Wheeled Devices

As a theft prevention measure, we encourage you to register your bike with Cal Poly Police Department. Residents are responsible for securing their own bicycles in designated bike areas. Recreational equipment with wheels cited below (except for gas-powered vehicles) are permitted to be stored in resident rooms provided all roommates agree to it.

25.1 Recreational equipment with wheels, including, but not limited to, bicycles, scooters, skateboards, rollerblades, and electric scooters, are not allowed to be ridden or used inside University Housing buildings.

25.2 Gas-powered recreational vehicles, equipment, or devices, including any associated fuel, are prohibited inside University Housing buildings.

25.3 Battery-powered (e-bikes, e-scooters, etc.) personal transportation devices, while permitted to be stored inside resident rooms pending all roommates agree to it, are not permitted to be charged inside University Housing buildings due to electrical fire concerns. Charging battery-powered personal transportation devices or their removable batteries anywhere inside University Housing buildings is prohibited due to fire and life safety concerns. Removing the battery from the device does not permit charging it indoors.

25.4 Residents may not possess or charge battery-powered personal transportation devices or batteries that are damaged, modified, recalled, leaking, swollen, overheating, or otherwise appear unsafe.

Residents who believe a device or battery may be damaged should discontinue use immediately and contact the manufacturer or appropriate recycling or disposal program.

26. Windows, Roofs, and Balconies

26.1 Residents may not hang or place signs, flags, clothing, banners, stickers, post-it notes, or decorative gels, etc. from or on any window or balcony.

26.2 Residents may not drop, roll, throw, or toss anything out of a window or balcony.

26.3 Window coverings installed in each room are not to be modified or tampered with.



26.4 Accessing rooftops, balconies, ledges, entering/exiting through windows, and fire escapes outside of emergencies is strictly prohibited.

26.5 No one is permitted to enter or exit buildings or rooms through windows.