

Office of Student Life Holiday Decorating Guidelines

We encourage residents to decorate for and celebrate the holiday season. All policies and procedures in the Community Standards Handbook apply. Listed below are additional regulations for decorating in the residence halls at Loyola University Maryland.

1. Exits signs, security cameras, fire-alarm pull stations, sprinkler heads, smoke detectors, doorways, fire extinguisher cabinets, stairwells and exits must remain uncovered and clear of obstructions. Do not drape or attach decorations to these items.
2. No floor level obstructions that create tripping hazards are permitted. Carpets and rugs are the only items that are permitted to be on the floor.
3. The following items are prohibited: candles, fog/smoke machines, & halogen lamps.
4. No obstructing of hallways, aisle ways, or corridors.
5. Hallways cannot be completely dark. There must be enough light to see to the end of the hallway from anywhere in the hall.
6. All combustible items must be flame retardant or treated with flame retarding solution.
7. Trash bags, newspapers and toilet paper are not allowed for decorating.
8. Halloween pre-packaged spider-webbing is permitted, but individuals must be able to pass through the hallway without walking through the cobwebs.
9. Covering entire walls with paper (or any other substance) is a fire hazard and not permitted. Only 20% of a wall-area can be covered.
10. Using detergent on walls or carpet is not permitted (it glows with a black light). If detergent is used it must be applied to paper and any spills on carpet or walls will result in common area charges for the entire floor.
11. Covering windows in doors is not allowed, as people cannot see when someone is on the other side and may get injured with the door opening.
12. Do not overload extension cords or outlets, and do not connect multiple extension cords together.
13. All electric or battery operated lights must be attended to at all times and cannot be left on with no one present. This means holiday lights should not be used in hallways. Holiday lights must also be UL listed.
14. Use of live garland, greenery, wreathes leaves, twigs, bamboo, branches, hay or sand is prohibited.
15. Artificial trees are only permitted in residence hall lounges, lobbies or living room areas. Live, cut trees are prohibited.
16. Major decorations should be taken down immediately following an event or the holiday being celebrated. All Christmas decorations must be removed before semester break. Any that are not removed will be discarded and residents will be charged accordingly.
17. Decorations for in-hall trick or treating (or as part of a hall-decorating contest) at Halloween cannot be up before October 24th, and must be removed by November 1st