



Standards &
Engagement



Back-to-School Safety: What Every Student Should Know Before Move-In Day

Practical safety considerations for the products
and devices students rely on every day.

Power Strips

With multiple electronics and limited space, many students rely on only a few outlets to power a large number of devices, and power strips have become a staple in student housing. Before plugging everything in, help avoid fire hazards with the following tips:

- ✓ Make sure power strips aren't overloaded and are being used according to manufacturer instructions.
- ✓ Never plug kitchen appliances like microwaves and refrigerators into power strips. Plug directly into wall outlets.
- ✓ Never plug space heaters or electric blankets into power strips. Plug directly into wall outlets.
- ✓ Never "daisy chain" multiple power strips or extension cords together for extra reach.



Smoke & CO Alarms, Fire Extinguishers and Exits

Know where your smoke alarms, carbon monoxide alarms, fire extinguishers, and emergency exits are located. Make sure they are accessible and functioning properly with the following tips:

- ✓ Make sure you have alarms on every floor of your home, outside sleeping areas, and inside bedrooms.
- ✓ Test alarms every six months to make sure batteries are functioning properly (Daylight Saving Time is a great time for testing alarms)
- ✓ Replace smoke alarms every 10 years and CO alarms every 5-7 years
- ✓ Keep fire extinguishers accessible on every floor.
- ✓ Do not block fire exits.



Lithium-Ion Powered Devices

From phones and laptops to e-scooters and personal care devices, rechargeable lithium-ion batteries are a part of everyday student life, but these batteries can present a fire risk if damaged or defective. Help avoid risks by charging, storing, and using products safely:

- ✓ Avoid overcharging products; remove from charger once fully charged.
- ✓ Monitor batteries and devices for signs of overheating such as battery swelling, smoke, unusual smells, or sounds like hissing and popping.
- ✓ Do not charge e-mobility products unattended or overnight. Ideally, charge outdoors in favorable weather conditions.
- ✓ Do not block fire exits with charging devices.
- ✓ Bring batteries to a safe drop-off location to recycle. Never dispose of rechargeable batteries in household trash or recycling bins.



Smart Shopping Habits

Whether you're furnishing a dorm room or replacing everyday essentials, choosing products from reputable retailers can help you make more informed purchasing decisions.

- ✓ Read product reviews carefully
- ✓ Purchase from reputable retailers
- ✓ Shop in-person to take advantage of safety features from in-store sales associates
- ✓ Look for certification to safety standards



Looking for more move-in safety guidance?

Explore additional resources and practical tips to help students create a safer living environment at school and beyond.

Learn more at **ULSE.org**

