December’s Tip: Holiday Decorations

Holiday decorations can make the holiday season more festive, but they can also pose serious fire and life safety hazards if they are not carefully chosen and displayed. The following requirements have been taken from the Student Handbook and Housing Contract or are law under the State of RI Fire Safety Code and National Fire Protection Association Life Safety Code. Please review these requirements and the Student Handbook prior to displaying any holiday decorations. Be safe and enjoy your holiday season.

01. The following items are not allowed in any University building owned or leased:
   - Incense, candles, and oil lamps
   - Live or cut trees and wreaths
   - Artificial trees that are not fire retardant
   - Fog machines
   - Decorative lighting that is not UL (Underwriter Laboratory) listed

02. The following actions are not allowed:
   - Hanging items from or attaching items to the ceiling (including decorative lights)
   - Hanging items from or attaching items to the outside of the building
   - Blocking or covering windows
   - Putting up posters, tapestries, or other decorations on room doors, egress doors, ceilings, corridors, and stairways.
   - “Wrapping” doors
   - Stringing together electrical cords
   - Hanging decorative lights in the hallway

03. The following items are allowed if they meet the criteria listed here:
   - Decorations that are fire retardant and are safely displayed – away from doors, windows, electrical equipment, sources of heat, and fire safety equipment (including pull stations, extinguishers, sprinkler heads, etc.).
   - Decorative lights that are UL listed, in good condition, that are unplugged or turned off when the occupant leaves the room
   - Review the Student Handbook and Portable Heater Policy for requirements regarding appliances, electrical devices and heat producing items.