



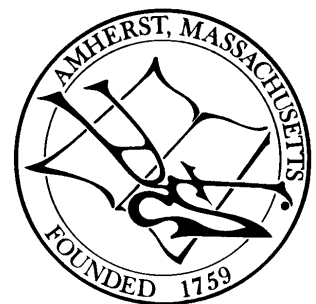
Living Off Campus in Amherst



TOWN OF AMHERST

AMHERST HEALTH DEPARTMENT

www.amherstma.gov



Things to know while living off campus in Amherst:



Before renting:

Partitioned, basement, or attic rooms: It is rare for the building department to give approval for partitioning of living and /or dining rooms into bedrooms. Some landlords will try to do this illegally to maximize students renting, but it is at the cost

of those students safety. Unless there are two means of exit provided, and the town has provided an approval in writing, basement and attic rooms are illegal to rent.

Structural, water, or fire damage: Look for signs of damage. This can be an indicator of previous serious problems with the property that can affect your safety and the safety of your belongings.

If you find signs of previous damage, be sure to find out what the cause was and what has been done to rectify the problem so that it does not reoccur.

Fire Protection Equipment: Smoke detectors are basic life safety devices that are required by the Fire Code to be on every level, in hallways leading to bedrooms and in every bedroom of a residence. Make sure that they are present and that they work.

Means of Exit: Whenever you go into a building it is important to know that you can get out of that building in an emergency. Beware of obstacles that may restrict your ability to escape. Bedrooms located in basements and attics are not permitted and should not be considered for occupancy.

Housekeeping: Does the place look clean and is it well maintained inside and out? This should be simple to evaluate and is an indication of how responsive the landlord will be when things need to be repaired. Mildew is a common problem wherever moisture is allowed to persist. Look for black stains on the basement walls and wherever water may collect.

Building Maintenance: Does the exterior of the building look well kept? Can you see peeling paint, rotten wood, broken windows, loose gutters, broken concrete, uncut vegetation? These things are easy to spot and will tell you a lot about the quality of the building and the land/ord.

While living in Amherst:

Be a Good Neighbor:

REMEMBER that your neighbor might NOT be a college student and won't appreciate loud music or parties.

- Make time to meet your neighbors.
- Be courteous and respectful.
- It's always a good idea to let your neighbors know when and if you will be having a party.
- Offer your phone number to as a way to encourage them to call you FIRST and not the police, if the party get's too loud.
- When having a party – keep in mind the impact of parking issues on you and your neighbors. Encourage friends to carpool or walk. Don't park on the grass.

Trash and Debris:

Accumulation of trash and debris on premises is prohibited. Trash and debris on property are unsightly, attract rodents, and can create unsanitary conditions. These things detract from the appearance and quality of our neighborhoods and discourage investment.

Upholstered furniture Stored Outside:

This type of furniture was not designed for outdoor use. Upholstered furniture burning on your porch presents a very real threat to your safety. Ignited by a carelessly discarded cigarette or an ash dropped between the cushions, fire develops slowly.

Rodents look for a warm cozy place to nest and raise their babies. Placing upholstered furniture outdoors provides them with an inviting environment.

Upholstered furniture is not allowed on decks or porches or in yards in Amherst, you will be asked to remove these items and can be fined.



Parking:

Cars must be parked on paved surfaces. No parking on the lawn is permitted.

For more information contact:

**Amherst Health Department
70 Boltwood Walk, Amherst, MA 01002
Phone Number: 413-259-3077
Email: health@amherstma.gov**



Get To Know Your Neighbors!