Fire Safety Alert

Recent Residence Hall fires at other campuses indicate a potential fire hazard related to lamps with plastic shades.

Residents are prohibited from bringing these items on campus.

These floor lamps are inexpensive and appear to be the ideal accessory for rooms on campus; however, they pose a great threat to students' safety. Reports from other academic institutions warn that these lamps have caused fires in residence halls. While some lamps require a Type A 60 watt bulb and others require Type B 25 watt bulbs, the danger is still prevalent. These lamps are known to get extremely hot, melting the shades of the lamp. The fumes from these shades are toxic. In some cases, the shades melt as quickly as 15 minutes. If lamps are unsupervised, or placed near other flammable objects, there is a potential fire hazard. Students will not be permitted to have lamps with plastic shades of any kind on campus beginning summer 2010. This safety precaution will be enforced by Residence Life staff immediately.

Similar lamps with glass or metal shades are available for purchase at popular retail stores, and will be allowed on campus. Other lamps to consider will have a UL listing on the package.