

STANDARDS FOR THE USE OF MICROWAVE OVENS

Purpose

To provide minimum standards for safe microwave operation in order to allow employees and students to retain the privilege of having a personal microwave appliance in their residence room or office area.

General

A microwave oven is designed to cook, reheat or defrost foods in a relatively short time. Used responsibly according to manufacturer's operating instructions, microwave ovens rarely cause any fire safety concerns. However, when used in a careless manner, snack foods such as popcorn, noodles, pizza, etc., often are overcooked and will start to burn, setting off building smoke alarms.

Policy

The following minimum standards must be met in order for a microwave to be used in a residential room or office area.

1. Microwave oven power output must be limited to 1000 watts or less.
2. The unit must be UL approved.
3. Microwave ovens must be plugged directly into a grounded power outlet. Extension cords are not permitted for use with microwaves under any circumstance.
4. No more than one microwave oven will be allowed per room.
 - a. For office areas on campus, if a common break room is available placing a microwave in that space that meets the criteria contained within this Standard is permitted. For office areas that do not have a common break room available, a microwave can be allowed in an individual office space but will require the approval of the Facility Administrator.
 - b. For residential areas, in addition to the standards noted here students must also follow the standards as outlined in the Guide to Residential Living.
5. A microwave with a UL/CSA tested/listed anti-smoke/anti-fire sensing device installed to detect emissions from microwave venting system is preferred.