Northern Michigan University
Loft Construction Guidelines for Residence Halls
(Except Magers, Meyland, and Van Antwerp Halls)

The Housing and Residence Life Office at Northern Michigan University established these guidelines to provide students with the opportunity to personalize their residence hall room by using a loft. Lofts must be constructed so they are safe and do not damage the room or other room furnishings. The student utilizing a loft is responsible for all injuries and/or damages caused by the construction, installation, use, or removal of a loft. The University does not assume any responsibility for such injuries and/or damages.

Residence Hall Room Dimensions

The following measurements are representative of the residence hall room dimensions. These dimensions vary slightly from building to building and should only be used as a guide.

- Ceiling height: 8'
- Size of room: 12' x 12'
- Length of closet: 6'
- Height of closet (to shelf): 5' 9"
- Length of hallway: 7'
- Length of inside wall (corner to hallway): 6' 9"
- Length of outside wall (corner to window): 5' 6"
- Window dimensions: 4' W x 4' 7" H
- Floor to window ledge: 2' 2"
- Width of window ledge: 6"
- Width of fin-tube (heater) cover (located on outside wall): 4 ½"

Indicates sprinkler head locations
- 1st Floor—approximately 5 ½" down from ceilings and 5” from corner
- 2nd Floor—approximately 5 ½" down from ceilings and 5” from corner
- 3rd Floor—approximately 11 ¼" down from ceilings and 5” from corner

Standard Twin Bed

- Bed spring dimensions - 77" by 36" with a variance of ±1/2".
- Bracket dimensions- 5”H x 1 ½” W
- Location of bolt holes – center approximately ¾” from the top and bottom of bracket
- Bolt holes – 9/16” in diameter
Applicability

These loft construction guidelines are applicable to all residence halls except Magers, Meyland, and Van Antwerp Halls. The beds in these two halls are a different size and design than those in the other residence halls. Lofts are not permitted in Magers, Meyland, and Van Antwerp Halls.

Construction Requirements

1. Loft construction must take place in student rooms and only during posted days and times.
2. Students must provide their own tools when constructing, assembling, or disassembling a loft.
3. The loft must be free-standing (not touching or attached to walls, ceiling, desks, etc.).
4. The top of the mattress must be no less than two feet from the ceiling. Nothing is to be attached to the ceiling in anyway.
5. No part of the loft can come within 18” of the sprinkler head and no part of the loft can interfere with the operation of the sprinkler head(s) in the room. See the sprinkler head location indicated on the diagram above. (The typical sprinkler head location is 7’ 6 ½” from the floor, 5 ½” from the ceiling and 6’ 3” from the back wall.)
6. The loft must not interfere with a person’s ability to get out of his or her room in the event of an emergency and, therefore, must not block the hallway entrance or room window.
7. Any strong milled wood in good condition other than treated – wolmanized - wood, with a minimum of knotholes can be used. The loft framework must consist of lumber that will safely withstand normal use (e.g. 4x4’s or two 2x4’s fastened together for legs). Adequate cross bracing must be utilized. No wood may be in its natural log form.
8. Bolts must be used in the construction of the loft to facilitate both assembly and disassembly. Washers should be used to allow the bolts to be tightened without being pulled into the wood.
9. The springs and mattress provided with the University bed are to be incorporated into the loft. To avoid damaging the mattress, bolts must not protrude to the point that they contact the mattress.
10. Lofts and/or loft materials cannot be stored in at the University during the summer. Students must dismantle and remove their loft before check-out according to check-out procedures provided. Students are responsible for properly reassembling their University bed after they have disassembled and removed their loft.

Possible Loft Options

L-Frame Loft

Single Loft

Double Loft

Enforcement

Should a student’s loft fail to meet these guidelines, he or she will be directed to remove the loft or reassemble it to meet the guidelines. Should he or she fail to remove or reassemble the loft as directed, the student may be charged with a violation of the Student Code and be billed for removal and/or disposal of the loft. In addition, he or she may be prohibited from constructing another loft in his or her room.