

## **Combustible Materials FAQ's**

### **What are combustible decorative materials?**

Combustible decorative materials are paper surface coverings, fabrics, streamers, vines, leaves, trees and all other materials used for decorative effect. These type of materials are not permitted in classrooms or hallways.

### **Did the Aurora Fire Department provide official communication regarding combustible materials?**

Yes, please click on the following link:

[Aurora Fire Department Correspondence](#)

### **Can I paint bulletin boards?**

Yes, provided the paint or coating used is latex-based. The use of combustible paints or coatings is prohibited. Please contact Maintenance and Operations prior to painting bulletin boards. A team member will assist with paint selection to ensure we meet fire department requirements.

### **Can I purchase my own bulletin board and have Maintenance install it for me?**

No. Our preference is that all bulletin boards are ordered through Maintenance and Operations and that they meet fire departments requirements for Class A flame spread.

### **How much combustible material can I display in my classroom?**

Art work, teaching materials and student work is limit to 20% of the wall area with a non-automatic sprinkler system and up to 50% in rooms with an approved automatic sprinkler system. Contact Maintenance to determine if your classroom has an approved automatic sprinkler system.

### **How much combustible material can I display in the hallway?**

Art work, teaching materials and student work is limit to 20% of the wall area.

### **Does my bulletin board count as combustible materials and is it considered part of the 20%?**

Yes and no. Bulletin boards installed as part of the original construction or installed by Maintenance meet flame spread ratings and therefore are not considered part of the 20% unless they are completely covered with paper or cloth as a background. However, bulletin boards that do not meet the flame spread rating are considered part of the 20% combustible wall area.

### **My door has a window. Can I use paper or fabric to cover the window?**

Yes, you can use either paper or fabric to cover the door window. The fire department understands that staff is required to prevent intruders from viewing into rooms during lockdown situations. In most cases, the use of a standard window blind is not practical for windows located in doors. For all other applications, like a typical interior or exterior window, a standard mini blind or other approved window treatment must be used. The fire department will not allow window treatments that do not meet flame spread ratings for educational institutions.

**Can student work be displayed from the ceiling or light fixtures?**

No. This practice poses a fire and safety hazard.

**Do bulletin boards that exceed 20% need to be removed?**

No, it does not need to be removed if it meets fire rating and is not used for displaying art or building information. Please contact Maintenance and Operations if you are unsure.

**Will sprinklers be installed to support the 50% rule in classrooms?**

No. Sprinklers may be added to classrooms as buildings are remodeled, cap reserve projects or as funds become available.

**Who pays to remove bulletin boards and repair walls?**

Maintenance and Operations will remove bulletin boards and repair walls that do not meet fire code requirements at no cost to the site. (Service Requests must be submitted in SchoolDude.)

**Media Centers/Libraries; how are they impacted due to posters displayed on the wall?**

Media centers and libraries fall under the same criteria as classrooms.

**Is 20% length or from door-way to door-way or length of the hallway corridor?**

The 20% rule for hallways is from doorway to doorway not the length of the corridor. Questions should be directed to Maintenance and Operations for clarification.

**Who has the final determination if a building meets combustible material requirements?**

The Aurora Fire Department is the jurisdiction having authority, and has the final determination for combustible materials as well as other fire code requirements.

**Can I repaint my wall after items have been removed?**

No. Certain wall finishes, like vinyl, brick, block, et cetera, are not intended to be painted. For paintable surfaces, like drywall, the District has very specific standards for paint quality, type, colors, and applications. We prefer that you leave painting to our professional team.

**My classroom had paper covering hallway windows. I removed the paper and now I need window blinds for lockdown events. Who pays for the window blinds?**

Maintenance will pay for the installation of new window blinds where there was not an existing blind, where paper was required for lockdown events, and the installation of the window blind is a result of the combustible requirement.

**Can I hang a flag display in my building?**

Note: A flag display is defined as multiple flags hanging in the same location or room.

No, if the room has a fire sprinkler system.

No, if the flag display is not fire retardant.

Yes, if the room does not have a fire sprinkler system and the flag display is fire retardant.

**Can I use non-combustible paper to use for decorative displays?**

Yes, provided the following conditions are met:

- Fire retardant paper must comply with fire code wall coverage requirements. A product called “Decorol Flame Retardant Paper”, from “PACON CORP”, (800) 333-2545 is acceptable for use by the fire department in our schools. Artwork would then be allowed to be placed on the paper.
- Areas completely covered with paper, fire retardant or not, cannot exceed coverage of 20% in non-sprinkled rooms or 50% in sprinkled rooms.
- Displaying artwork, paper and projects on top of walls completely covered with “non-fire retardant” paper is unacceptable.

**Can paper be used to create a boarder on a bulletin board?**

Yes. The fire department will allow a six inch wide boarder of non-fire retardant colored paper on bulletin boards.

**Can I use an off the shelf spray applied fire retardant on fabric or other combustible materials?**

No. The fire department does not allow retardant spray products to be used to meet any flame resistant requirements because it is too difficult to regulate the consistency of application. They will accept materials that are factory-treated provided there is a certificate on site verifying the material is flame resistance.