

[FSILG]

Personal Wheels (PW) Policy

Personal Wheels (PW) Definition: As defined by MIT, Personal Wheels (PW) are any non-medical transportation devices and vehicles, with or without motors and/or batteries, including bicycles, scooters, hoverboards, skateboards, unicycles, in-line skates, and other self-balancing personal transport mechanisms.

Policy Purpose: Personal Wheels are a convenient mode of transportation to and from the MIT campus. However, they are sometimes powered by lithium batteries, which are a potential fire hazard. A lithium battery, if used improperly, can spontaneously begin to smolder or even burst into flames in a process called thermal runaway. Additionally, both motorized and non-motorized PWs can pose safety risks if they are stored in improper locations and/or block egress paths. Therefore, to minimize safety risks associated with PWs, the following policy must be adhered to:

1. Residents will be allowed to keep a single PW at [\[FSILG Address\]](#) (the House), provided they comply with this policy and there is sufficient designated PW storage space. This is not a right, but a privilege, and the [\[FSILG House Corporation\]](#) may revoke this privilege for any member or resident who violates the policy.

2. No one shall be permitted to keep more than one PW in the House.

3. No one who is not a resident of the House may store or charge a PW in the House.

4. No PW with a nominal power rating greater than 1000 Watts shall be kept in the House, unless approved by the [\[FSILG House Corporation\]](#). (Typically, “commuting” e-scooters designed with maximum speeds of less than 25 mph are rated at less than 1000 Watts.)

5. The [\[FSILG House Corporation\]](#) requires that the following types of PWs be registered with the MIT Parking & Transportation Office (<https://web.mit.edu/facilities/transportation/pw/motorized.html#register>) at the start of a school year, or within 48 hours of bringing a PW into the House:

- ☒ Motorized/e-scooters
- ☒ Motorized/e-Bikes
- ☒ Bicycles
- ☒ Non-motorized scooters
- ☒ Hoverboards & other motorized or battery operated PWs
- ☐ Skateboards, unicycles, in-line skates, and other self-balancing personal transport mechanisms.

To be registered, your motorized PW (and its charging cord as well as any separate battery) must be UL certified. Motorized PWs that are not UL certified are not permitted in the House.

6. Owners of types of PWs requiring registration (specified above) shall also complete the [\[FSILG\]](#) Personal Wheels (PW) Registration Form and submit it to the [\[FSILG designee\(s\)\]](#). The [\[FSILG designee\]](#) will assign a “parking spot” to each registered PW and track all PWs that are authorized to be stored in the House in a central document that will be updated each term (Fall/Spring/Summer) and provided to the [\[FSILG designee/House Corporation\]](#).

[OR \[choose option depending on whether your organization would like to have a separate additional registration process\]](#)

6. Once registration has been approved by the MIT Parking & Transportation Office, the PW owner will provide the MIT issued registration number to the [\[FSILG designee\]](#), who will assign a “parking spot” to each registered PW. The [\[FSILG designee\]](#) will track all registered PWs that are authorized to be stored in the House in a central document that will be updated each term (Fall/Spring/Summer) and provided to the [\[FSILG designee/House Corporation\]](#).

7. The registration sticker issued by MIT must be applied to the vertical handlebar post of the PW or other easily visible location if the PW does not have a vertical handlebar post. This sticker must remain visible on the PW, so that its owner can readily be identified.
8. [FSILG designee(s)] may inspect PWs in the House at any time, and may seize or impound any PW that does not display a registration sticker, until its owner can be identified, and to determine if it is registered. Any unregistered PW that remains in the House for more than one week will be considered abandoned and will be turned over to MIT Parking & Transportation.
9. All PW's must be kept in the [FSILG designated PW storage location] in their assigned "parking space" at all times that they are in the House. There is NO EXCEPTION to this policy. Never leave a PW in any other location inside the building for any reason, even for a brief period of time.
10. If the [FSILG designee(s)] or any representative of the [FSILG House Corporation] finds a PW anywhere in the House other than it's assigned space in the [FSILG designated PW storage location], they will take a photo, note the date and time, and submit this information to the [FSILG designee(s)]. The owner of the PW will be fined \$40 for a first violation, \$100 for a second violation, and for a third violation the owner will lose the privilege of keeping a PW in the House. For such a third violation, the [FSILG designee] may impound the PW until the owner makes plans to remove it from the House. Any unauthorized PW that remains in the House for more than one week will be considered abandoned and will be turned over to MIT Parking & Transportation.
11. Residents must remove any PW they own from the House upon the termination of their Housing Agreement. Any PW that remains in the House for more than one week after the end of its owner's Housing Agreement Term will be considered abandoned and will be turned over to MIT Parking & Transportation. PWs [may/may not] be stored in the House over the summer if the member is not residing in the House, but is returning the following semester.
12. If the PW uses a battery or charger other than the equipment originally supplied with the PW, that battery or charger shall have the same electrical ratings (voltage, amperes, watts) as the original equipment. Replacement equipment must have an Underwriters Laboratory (UL) marking on the equipment. Cheap, off-label batteries and chargers are the main reason for battery fires.
13. Whenever practical, unplug a PW after it has charged. The manufacturer provides guidelines for charging, including nominal charging time, and the charge capacity at which to stop (generally the recommendation is to stop at about 90% of battery capacity, and never go to 100%.) Although it is difficult to avoid charging overnight, if a schedule can be planned to avoid this, it is desirable. After charging overnight, unplug it in the morning, even if you will not be using the PW. Do not leave motorized PWs charging if you go away over a weekend, a school break, or while storing for a long time.
14. Whenever practical, do not begin charging a PW immediately after riding it; it is a better policy to wait 15-30 minutes to allow the battery to cool before beginning the charging process.
15. If you witness any PW abnormality, such as an overheated battery, or a battery emitting smoke or flames, DO NOT attempt to extinguish it with water or a fire extinguisher. Do not risk your own safety; once a battery is smoldering or burning, it could explode at any moment. If it can be done safely, throw the fire suppression blanket over the motorized PW from a safe distance – this will not put out the fire, but will slow its propagation. If a battery is burning and it cannot be removed safely from the House, pull the fire alarm and follow fire evacuation procedures.
16. The City of [Municipality], MIT, or our insurance underwriters may implement regulations or restrictions of PW's. The [FSILG House Corporation] will adjust this policy to conform to any new regulations.

I have read and understood this [FSILG] PW policy and agree to abide by it:

(signed by PW owner)

Version MM-DD-YYYY

(date)