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University of Northern Iowa Department of Residence

Lofts for Beds

2006-2007 Academic Year

If you are going to live in Bartlett, Campbell and Lawther Halls, you already will have a loftable bed in your room, so THERE IS NO NEED TO READ ON.

If you live in Bender, Dancer, Hagemann, Noehren, Rider or Shull Halls, you will find a bed (springs, bed ends and a mattress) as part of your room furnishings. Many students create more space in their rooms by replacing the bed ends with a loft. You may do this by **RENTING A METAL LOFT** or by **buying or building a wooden loft**.

WE RECOMMEND renting for the academic year from Bedloft.com because:



1. they deliver to campus Wednesday through Friday of Opening Weekend.
2. their lofts are quick and easy to assemble
3. there is no need to find a place to store them over the summer months, when you're done

Information about this rental option is at this website:

<http://www.bedloft.com>

Purchase Option

If you would rather not rent, you may purchase a used wooden loft from previous owners or new loft from local vendors (like Hy-Vee). But, **MAKE SURE** the loft fits the room you will be occupying before paying for it, as the floor spaces of rooms vary across campus!. We recommend against buying wooden lofts for these reasons:

1. It is sometimes hard to match the dimensions of the loft purchased with the dimensions and type of bed springs in the location where the loft will be used (since the dimensions and type of bed springs vary across campus).
2. It requires assembly that is much more involved than the 3-minute assembly of rented metal lofts from Bedlofts.com
3. It requires finding a buyer and/or storage space at the end of the school year when you move.
4. It requires meeting the following specifications, which can vary among those who build lofts. Bedlofts.com lofts comply with these specifications, according to the campus address you identify when ordering your loft.

Build Option

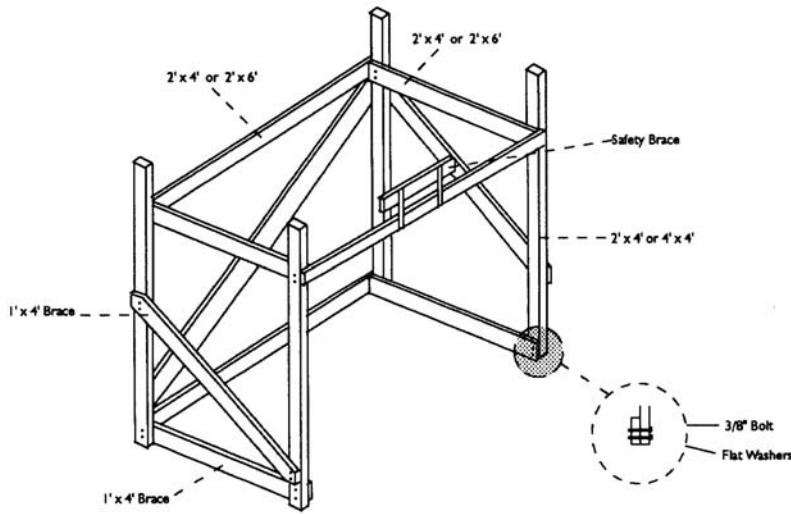
If you would rather not rent or purchase, you may build your own. However, we recommend you not do this until you have actually gained access to the room during move-in to be certain of the dimensions of that room. Room dimensions we provide online are approximate. Access to specific rooms is not possible prior to move-in weekend, including during Summer Orientation.

Minimum Safety Standards

The following are the minimum standards for lofts at UNI. They must be met in order to pass safety inspections by our staff during the first week of classes. Failure to pass the opening weekend staff inspections will result in the required removal of your loft.

- Locate your lofted or unlofted bed at least 2 feet from any wall heating unit and/or window.
- The top of the upper mattress must be at least 27 inches from the ceiling.
- If you are bunking your beds, allow at least 27 inches of clearance between the top of the bottom mattress and the bottom of the top mattress.
- Use wood materials of 2" x 4" dimension or larger for corner and cross supports and 1" x 4" or larger for bracing. Metal materials used for supports and /or bracing should be 2" angle iron or larger.
- Connect pieces with screws or bolts of 3/8" diameter or larger.
- The structure must be no wider than necessary to hold a mattress or two mattresses, end-to-end.
- The structure must be free-standing and sturdy; not attached to walls, ceiling or floor; leaning against or wedged between the walls; or sitting on furniture.

- Sharp or protruding edges must be covered (examples: use racquet or tennis balls, cut in half).
- Do not build in front of electrical outlets, heaters, etc., where maintenance access is needed.
- Do not remove phone jack or tamper with electrical outlets, switches and lights.
- Chains cannot be used to suspend bed frames from the loft frame or in any construction of a loft.



NOTES: (1) The illustration shows the bottom three braces flush with the floor. We recommend you build these braces no lower than 6 inches from the floor, which will allow for any last-minute shortening that many need to be done to pass inspection. (2) Although a small Safety Brace is shown in the diagram, a full length Safety Brace that is connected to both exterior posts is strongly recommended.

Room Dimensions

Whether you purchase, rent or build your own loft, you can find the APPROXIMATE dimensions of your specific room at the Room Layouts link on the Department of Residence web site (www.uni.edu/dor/RoomLayouts/). Because there are occasionally little nooks and crannies (pipes and other construction variances) in different rooms, the exact dimensions can vary from the

dimensions given. So, YOU SHOULD MEASURE, NOT RELY ON THE ABSOLUTE ACCURACY OF THESE DIMENSIONS. They are, as has been stated, APPROXIMATE.

If you don't have access to the Department of Residence web site, here are APPROXIMATE measurements for areas of all halls:

Hall	Floors	Ceiling Height	Approx. Room Size
BENDER	1 st	7'11"	12'X12'
	2 nd -12 th	8'2"	12'X12'
DANCER	1 st	7'11"	12'X12'
	2 nd -12 th	8'2"	12'X12' ***
HAGEMANN	1 st -3 rd	8'3"	10'X14'
	4 th	10'3"	10'3" X14'5"
NOEHREN	1 st -4 th	8'1"	10'3"X14'5"
	5 th	10'4"	10'X14'5"
RIDER	1 st -3 rd	8'1"	10'X14'5"
	4 th	10'4"	10'X14'5"
SHULL	1 st -3 rd	8'1"	10'X14'5"
	4 th	10'4"	10' X14'5"

*** Handicap accessible rooms (Dancer 219, 220, 319 and 320) dimensions are different, because the sink cuts into the space. Therefore, only one loft will fit in these rooms.

Sheets

Mattresses on beds on most campuses are between 78" and 80" long. This means that fitted sheets for standard 75" mattresses may not fit. But, they might, because the depth of the on-campus mattresses is slightly less than the standard twin bed mattress. Some current students tell us standard sheets work and some say that they needed longer sheets. So, you can either try out standard twin bed sheets initially, with the option to buy longer sheets later, OR just buy longer sheets initially.

This information is also available at www.uni.edu/dor/housing/halls/Lofts.pdf