

Safe Use of Portable Space Heaters

Electric Space Heaters

-  To protect your family and your home, you should only purchase space heaters labeled as “Underwriter’s Laboratory (U.L.) Listed” and that has an automatic shut off switch.
-  Space heaters should also have a tilt switch, which will automatically turn the unit off if it happens to tip over.
-  Space Heaters must be fully enclosed by a guard around the heating coil. This will prevent fingers or fabrics from touching the hot coil, and prevent no external surfaces reaching temperatures capable of starting a fire.
-  Space heaters must be plugged directly into an electrical outlet with a 3-prong plug. Do not use light-duty extension cords or multi-outlet strip/surge protectors. Extension cords and surge protectors can start fires because space heaters draw high amounts of wattage.
-  Only place the space heater on a level surface, away from foot traffic.
-  Keep the space heater at least 3 feet away from combustible items such as drapes and furniture. Keeping a heater too close to these items is the number one cause of space heater fires.
-  Never use a space heater as a dryer for clothing, wet towels, etc.
-  Look for a heater with an automatic timer, which will shut the heater off after heating is complete.
-  Unplug the heater when not in use
-  Do not hide the cord under a rug or carpet, this can cause the core to overheat and start a fire.
-  Never allow pets or children near an electric heater. Accidental contact could result in serious shock or burns.



Gas/Oil filled Space Heaters

-  Your gas space heater should be properly ventilated.
-  Be sure the vent pipe has no cracks, is not too small and is not clogged. These problems can be very hazardous and can lead to carbon monoxide gas leaking out.
-  If you must have an unventilated heater, keep a door or window slightly open at all times to prevent accumulation of carbon monoxide.
-  Light the match before you turn on the gas, to prevent accumulation of gas. (This will prevent gas from flaring up when you bring the match near).
-  Remember that a space heater can ignite liquids & vapors.
-  Never use the space heater where gasoline is stored.
-  Never use a space heater where paint thinners, kerosene, or other volatile liquids are being used.
-  Use only the fuel for which the heater was designed.

