

Space Heater Safety Tips

A **S**pace heater is a self-contained, free standing air heating appliance intended for installation in the space being heated and not intended for duct connection. Space heaters are the leading cause of home fires during December, January and February-but such disasters can be prevented with a few simple precaution tips.

General Tips For Buying A Space Heater



- Choose a space heater that has been tested and labeled by a nationally recognized testing company.
- Select the space heater that is the correct size for the area you want to heat.
- Look for a model with automatic shut-off features.
- Select a heater with a guard around the flame area or heating element.

Space Heater Safety Tips

- Inspect space heaters before use. Read and follow the manufacturer's operating instructions.
- Gas and kerosene space heaters need to be inspected annually. Use only the fuel recommended by the manufacturer. Never use gasoline or other substitute fuel. Be sure that any liquid-fueled heating device used in the home is rated for indoor use and is adequately ventilated.
- When refueling, turn off the space heater and let it completely cool before adding fuel. Clean up any spills promptly.
- Keep doors open to the rest of the house if you are using an unvented fuel-burning space heater. This will prevent carbon monoxide build-up by promoting proper air combustion.
- Do not use if space heater has broken wires or shows any sign of overheating. Replace missing guards and controls at once. Do not operate a defective heater.
- Place heater on a level, hard and nonflammable surface, not on rugs or carpets. Always keep space heaters clearly visible.
- Keep the space heater at least **3** feet away from bedding, drapes, furniture or other flammable materials or liquids.
- Keep children and pets away from space heaters. Do not leave space heaters unattended. Turn it off while you sleep.
- Keep electric heaters away from water. Never use them near a sink or in the bathroom.
- Do not use extension cords with space heaters.
- Do not use or store flammable liquids around a space heater.
- Mobile homes require specially designed heating equipment. Electric or vented fuel-fired heaters should be used.



Source of Information: U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (www.cpsc.gov)

National Fire Protection Association (www.nfpa.org)