



Space Heater Safety Tips

Each winter, heating is a leading cause of residential structure fires. As the temperature drops during the winter holiday season, many families turn to alternative heat sources, such as space heaters, to help warm their homes.

The risk of fire from space heaters is 3 to 4 times higher than from central heating equipment. Take extra precautions to ensure the proper use of portable space heaters during winter months.

Safety Tips

- Choose a heater that bears the mark of a nationally recognized testing laboratory.
- Check the cord before plugging in the heater. If frayed, worn or damaged, do not use the heater.
- Do not use space heaters with extension cords. Plug them directly into an outlet on an unburdened circuit.
- Keep space heaters at least 3 feet away from anything that can burn, such as bedding, curtains, furniture, clothing, and paper.
- Place space heaters on level, flat surfaces. Never place heaters on cabinets, tables, or furniture.
- Do not use a space heater in damp or wet areas unless it is specifically designed for use outdoors or in bathrooms.
- Keep space heaters out of high-traffic and exit areas.
- Do not use space heaters to warm bedding, cook food, dry clothing or thaw pipes.
- Never leave a space heater unattended. Turn heaters off when you go to sleep or leave the room.
- Turn off, unplug, and safely store portable space heaters when not in use.
- Do not use space heaters in rooms where children are unsupervised.

Visit www.holidaysafety.org for more tips and tools to help keep you safe this season.