

HOME MATTERS



Space Heater Safety

According to the National Fire Protection Association, the use of supplemental heating equipment such as space heaters, is the leading cause of home fires from December through February, and the second-leading cause of home fires year-round. That's why it's important to take adequate measures to protect yourself when using space heaters. Keep the following safety precautions in mind when using such equipment.

- Do not use space heaters to warm bedding, thaw pipes, or dry clothing.
- Select space heaters with the Underwriters Laboratories safety mark.
- Purchase units with automatic shut-off features and heating element guards.
- Keep items that could be a potential ignition source at least 3 feet away from a space heater.
- Turn off space heaters when you leave the room or go to sleep.
- Supervise children and pets around space heaters to prevent burns.
- Check for frayed insulation, broken wires, and overheating on electrical space heaters. If you notice any of these problems, have the unit serviced immediately.
- Use only fuel recommended by the manufacturer for liquid-fueled space heaters.
- Turn off the heater and let it cool before refueling.
- Avoid using extension cords with space heaters. If you must do so, make sure that the cord is the right gauge size and type for the heater.

Prevent Tripping Hazards

Space heaters are more than just a fire risk. Units with long cords can present a tripping hazard if stored improperly. With this in mind, be sure to put safety first when determining where you will store a space heater in your home. Specifically, avoid storing the space heater in high-traffic areas. Try to place the heater in a location where any attached cords can be placed as far away from walkways as possible.