



# Electric Portable Space Heater Safety

When the weather turns cold, it can bring a chill into our homes. Portable space heaters have become a popular way to supplement central heating or heat one room. If you plan to use portable electric space heaters, make sure to follow these tips and recommendations:

## HEATER CHECKLIST

- » Purchase a heater with the seal of an independent testing laboratory.
- » Keep the heater at least 3 feet away from anything that can burn, including people.
- » Choose a heater with a thermostat and overheat protection.
- » Place the heater on a solid, flat surface.
- » Make sure your heater has an auto shut-off to turn the heater off if it tips over.
- » Keep space heaters out of the way of foot traffic. Never block an exit.
- » Keep children away from the space heater.
- » Plug the heater directly into the wall outlet. Never use an extension cord.
- » Space heaters should be turned off and unplugged when you leave the room or go to bed.

## Types of electric space heaters

### Oil or water-filled radiator

Heated oil or water travels through the heater.

### Fan-forced heater

A fan blows warm air over metal coils.

### Ceramic heater

Air is warmed over a ceramic heating element.

### Infrared heaters

Heat is created by infrared bulbs.

## Fact

Nearly half of all space heater fires involve electric space heaters.



Your Source for SAFETY Information

NFPA Public Education Division • 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169