



## Space Heater Safety

Sometimes closing rooms and heating a smaller space can be cheaper than heating the whole house. If you use space heaters in the winter, please be safe.

- If you have a choice, it's safer to use electric space heaters - and they are cheaper to run. Kerosene and propane can cause fires, carbon monoxide or other indoor air pollution problems. Always make sure the space heater is designed for the size space you are trying to heat.
- Never use a propane heater or any other unvented heater made for camping or outdoor use inside. They vent their exhaust into the room and can lead to carbon monoxide buildup. Indoor propane heaters need to vent outside the house.
- Have adequate ventilation to other rooms and a source of fresh outside air, to reduce the possibility of asphyxiation. If you use propane or kerosene to heat your home, be sure to have a carbon monoxide detector installed on each floor. You cannot see or smell carbon monoxide, and it can build up to dangerous levels quickly.
- Always place any type of heater several feet away from furniture, curtains, papers, clothes, bedding and other combustible materials to avoid the risk of a fire. Don't place a space heater on furniture, in a doorway or anywhere it could fall or get knocked over.
- Care givers for babies, toddlers and young children, as well as pet owners, should be aware that touching any part of an operating kerosene heater above the open flame could result in a serious burn. Never leave them alone in a room with a space heater.
- Never attempt to move a lighted kerosene heater. Even a carrying handle could cause a burn. Extinguish the flame and allow the heater to cool before moving it. Never refuel a kerosene heater inside or when the heater is hot, and always store extra fuel outside.
- Fire officials strongly urge that kerosene heaters be turned off before you go to sleep. Never leave them running when you are not at home.
- It is important to have smoke detectors and a fire extinguisher nearby for safety sake. Install new batteries and inspect the shut-off mechanism and wick for proper operation before every heating season. Keep dust, dirt, and spills off the heater all winter, and inspect the wick regularly, too.
- Fill the tank with fresh kerosene when winter starts. Never use kerosene from a previous heating season. Never, ever mix kerosene and gasoline, or fill the heater with gas or other fuels.
- Check for leaks every time you change a propane cylinder by using warm water with soap and checking for bubbles.
- Go through the owner's manual every fall to make sure you remember all the operating and safety features.



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Funded in part by the Cabinet for Health and Family Services, Community Services Block Grant.

Contact us for more energy saving tips!  
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