



GREATER NAPLES FIRE RESCUE

ELECTRIC PORTABLE HEATER SAFETY

PUBLIC EDUCATION ISSUE 7


TIPS FOR USING PORTABLE SPACE HEATERS

staying warm and staying safe.


TYPES OF ELECTRIC SPACE HEATERS

KNOW THE DIFFERENCE:

- **Oil or water-filled radiator:** Heat or oil 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.



SPACE HEATERS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR 1/3 OF HOME HEATING FIRES & ABOUT 80% OF HOME HEATING FIRE DEATHS



HEATER CHECKLIST

YOU SHOULD:


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:

- Purchase a heater with the seal of an independent testing laboratory.
- Keep the heater at least 3 feet (1 meter) 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.



FACT


NEARLY HALF OF ALL SPACE HEATER FIRES INVOLVE ELECTRIC SPACE HEATERS.



Radiant
Radiant heaters work by electrifying metal coils or a halogen bulb and reflecting the resultant heat back into the room. Basic and cheap, these heaters work quietly as no fan is involved in the operation.

Best for areas within rooms
Place near a reading chair, a sewing machine, a computer, etc.


25' square
Smaller areas of 15-25 sq. ft.
Technically rated for up to 150 sq. ft.



Fan-Driven Ceramic
Ceramic heaters create heat with electric coils and then push out the heat with a small fan.

Best for areas within areas
Perfect for offices, under desks, and children's rooms.

25' square
Small areas of 15-25 sq. ft.
Great for spot-warming target areas.



Oil-Filled Radiator
Radiator-style convection heaters contain a thermal core of oil. They require more room yet provide the advantage of portability and low cost whole-room heating.
Because they are a tip hazard, they are not recommended for bedrooms with small children.

Best for entire rooms
Best for living and dining rooms where more floor space is available.

150' square
Larger areas up to 150 sq. ft.
Offer slow, but dependable heat for up to 150 sq. ft.

More fire safety information can be found through the National Fire Protection Association: <https://nfpa.org/education>

