




Using Portable Space Heaters

Space heaters are an affordable heating alternative for small spaces, such as under desks, in bathrooms, etc. But they are also a leading source of structure fires during winter months.

The best option for heating spaces safely is using building heating systems rather than portable space heaters. However, when using space heaters is necessary, these recommended guidelines should be followed:

- Check with your local fire or codes official and make sure there are not any restrictions on the use of portable heating devices.
- Look for products that have been tested by U.L. (Underwriters Laboratories).
- Buy a model that has an automatic shut-off feature and heat element guards.
- Maintain a minimum of 36" clearance between the heater and combustible materials such as paper, trash, furniture, clothing or other combustible/flammable materials.
- Do not leave the heater unattended.
- Electric heaters should be inspected prior to each use.
 - Check the cord for fraying and cracking, and look for broken wires or signs of overheating in the device itself.
 - If necessary, only use heavy-duty extension cords marked with a No. 14 gauge or larger wire.
 - If the heater's plug has a grounding prong, use only a grounding (three-wire) extension cord.
 - Never run the heater's cord (or any cord for that matter) under rugs or carpeting.
- Liquid-fueled heaters must be operated using only the fuel recommended by the manufacturer.
 - Never use gasoline or any other substitute fuel.
 - Allow the heater to cool down prior to refueling.
 - For additional information on liquid-fueled heaters, visit www.oilheatamerica.com.

The information contained in this publication has been developed from sources believed to be reliable. It should not, however, be construed or relied upon as legal advice and Utica National accepts no legal responsibility for its correctness or for its application to specific factual situations.

 Utica National Insurance Group • Utica Mutual Insurance Company and its affiliated companies, New Hartford, NY 13413 • www.uticanational.com