



## SAFETY AND GUIDELINES

## PORTABLE HEATERS

Utilizing portable heaters is an effective source to stay warm with during the winter. On average they can heat a room up to 300 sq. ft. They are a good supplement when heating is inconsistent, such as in attics and apartment buildings.

### DID YOU KNOW

- 43% of all home heating fires and 85% of home heating fire deaths are from utilizing portable heaters.
- The U.S Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) indicates that more than 25,000 residential fires are caused by portable heaters.
- Studies have shown that 20% of home heating fires are caused by combustibles like bedding, magazines, newspapers, clothing, or furniture. 7% were caused by rugs, carpets, or mats.
- An estimated 6,000 people receive emergency room care for burn injuries due to touching the hot surfaces of portable heaters.
- The peak time of day for home heating equipment fires is between 4:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.
- December, January and February are the leading months for home heating fires.



## SAFETY TIPS

- Choose a heater that has a thermostat with a safety switch for overheating protection.
- Make sure the heater carries the Underwriter's Laboratory (UL) label.
- Don't use gas or oil-burning heaters indoors.
- Never operate a heater you suspect is damaged. Before using a portable heater inspect the heater, cord, and plug for any damage.
- Keep a circumference of at least 3 feet (0.9 m) from the heater away from anything that can burn, which includes people.
- Due to the high wattage, plug the heater directly into the wall outlet. Never use an extension cord.
- Insure that the heater is placed on a level surface that is stable and cannot be easily knocked over.
- Under no circumstance should the heater's cord run under rugs or carpeting. This can damage the cord, causing it and nearby objects to burn.
- Turn off and unplug portable heaters when you leave the room or go to bed.
- Check frequently to determine if any part of the heater is hot. This will include the plug, cord, wall outlet, or faceplate. If you feel that any of these are hot, discontinue using the heater right away.
  - If the wall outlet or faceplate is hot, have a qualified electrician check and/or replace the faulty wall outlet(s).
  - If the cord or plug is hot, disconnect the heater and have it inspected/repared by an authorized repair technician.
- Replace a portable heater based on the manufacturer's guidelines in the manual. They can also be replaced based on an inspection being unsatisfactory.



## TYPES OF PORTABLE HEATERS

- Oil or Water filled radiator - Heated oil and water travels through the heaters
- Fan forced Heater - Fan blows air over heating coils.
- Ceramic Heater - Air is warmed over ceramic.
- Infrared Heater - Heat is generated by infrared bulbs.