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Space Heaters – Friend or Foe?

As it gets colder, everyone is looking for other options to stay warm in their home and workplace. The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission estimates that more than 25,000 residential fires every year are associated with the use of room (space) heaters. More than 300 persons die in these fires. An estimated 6,000 persons receive hospital emergency room care for burn injuries associated with contacting hot surfaces of room heaters, mostly in non-fire situations. Please keep the following in mind when using space heaters;

- ✓ Space heaters must have a Canadian Standards Association (CSA) label.
- ✓ Keep portable and space heaters at least 1 meter (3 feet) away from anything combustible including paper, drapes, loose clothes furniture, bedding and wallpaper.
- ✓ Never place clothes on a heater to dry.
- ✓ Avoid leaving heaters on when you leave the house or go to bed.
- ✓ Keep children well away from heaters.
- ✓ Never use or store flammable liquids (such as gasoline) around a space heater. The flammable vapors can flow from one part of the room to another and be ignited by the open flame or by an electrical spark.
- ✓ Be certain that your heater is placed on a level, hard and nonflammable surface, not on rugs or carpets.
- ✓ Unless certified for that purpose, do not use heaters in wet or moist places, such as bathrooms; corrosion or other damage to parts in the heater may lead to a fire or shock hazard.
- ✓ Do not hide cords under rugs or carpets. Placing anything on top of the cord could cause the cord to overheat, and can cause a fire.
- ✓ Broken heaters should be checked and repaired by a qualified appliance service center. Do not attempt to repair, adjust or replace parts in the heater yourself.



Stay Safe,

Julie Ineson