

STRASSER HARDWARE FYI ELECTRIC SPACE HEATERS

Space heaters are a great way to stay warm in the winter while saving money on your energy costs.

The most important factor to consider when choosing a space heater however is not warmth - it is safety.

Space heaters used to be dangerous because they were not designed with any built in safety features and thus frequently caused house fires. Recently, however, stricter standards for space heaters have been put in place and today's space heaters come with a variety of safety features that make them much safer to use to stay warm during the winter.

You will save the most money on your heating bill by using a space heater in a small, confined area. Most average space heaters can heat a room up to 200 sqft. The idea is to make the space you are in comfortable and turn down the main heat in your house.

They do make space heaters that can heat rooms that are larger than that, but they typically are much more expensive and use more energy.

If you have a large area to heat you may want to look for a space heater that has a blower since that will help to disperse the heat throughout the room instead of just having the heat localized around the heater.

When using a space heater in a room, close any doors to other rooms that don't need heating to help keep the heat that is put off by the heater in the room with you.

As long as you consider safety first and use it wisely, a space heater can be a fantastic way to stay warm during even the coldest winter while saving money on your energy costs at the same time. As with any purchase, you should shop around and make sure you are getting the most safety features and best energy output within your price range before purchasing your space heater.

Most of the problems that arise with electric space heaters are caused by heat or fire; rather than the electricity of electrical wiring.

The most obvious precautions to take, to prevent accidents caused by heaters, are simply to make sure that there is an adequate distance between the heater and any potential source of combustion.

The sources include items of furniture, curtains, anything made of paper or cardboard and of course any flammable liquids. Be especially sure to keep the heater away from any potential contact with water.

If you are purchasing a heater with one or more electric elements, it is important to make sure that there is an adequate guard around them. Any contact with a heated element by paper or fabric material creates an immediate serious fire risk.

Space heaters are reasonably inexpensive and it is well worth the money to upgrade from an older model. Older space heaters don't have the built in safety features of today's models and are much more likely to cause fires.

SAFETY TIPS

- Before using the heater, read and follow the instructions for its operation and maintenance.
- Do not use an electric heater as a dryer by placing clothing over it and never use it to thaw pipes.
- Keep the heater in safe working condition Replace missing guards and controls at once. Never operate a defective heater.
- Don't place the heater where children might play near it or where people might trip over or bump into it.
- Never set a space heater on an uneven or unsteady surface where it might tip over.
- Regardless of the type of heating system you have, install and maintain at least one smoke detector that is in good working condition on each floor of your home.
- Do not use household extension cords with electric heater as the cord may overheat. If you must use an extension cord, make sure it is a heavy duty cord marked with a # 14 gauge or larger wire An incorrectly-sized cord may create a fire hazard.
- Never run the heater's cord (or any cord) under rugs or carpeting.
- Do not leave the heater operating unattended or operating while sleeping. Portable electric air heaters are designed for use only as temporary supplemental heating and only while attended.
- To prevent electrical shocks and electrocutions, always keep portable electric heaters away from water and never touch an electric heater if you are wet.
- Do not use space heaters near draperies, other fabric or furniture. A space heater should be used at least 3 to 4 feet away from anything flammable.