



SPACE HEATER GUIDELINES

Introduction

Safety is a top consideration when using space heaters. The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission estimates that more than 25,000 residential fires every year are associated with the use of space heaters, causing more than 300 deaths. 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.

Instructions

- Submit a work order or contact the Electrical Shop for an inspection of location of the space heater.
- Once the location has been approved by the Electrical Shop, contact Environmental Health & Safety for space heater models approved for purchase. Space heaters must be ceramic, UL listed or FM approved, have a thermostat that automatically regulates temperature, and must be equipped with Tip-Over Shutdown safety feature.
- Heaters not supplied/purchased by the University will be removed.
- Space heaters are not allowed in student rooms and are not allowed in laboratories.
- Follow all manufacturer's operating instructions.

Do-Not

- Do not operate any heater with a damaged cord or plug, or after the heater malfunctions, or has been dropped or damaged in any manner.
- Do not use in bathrooms, laundry areas, or other similar indoor locations.
- Do not run cord under carpeting; do not cover cord with throw rugs, runners or the like. Arrange cord away from traffic area where it will not be tripped over.
- Do not use on soft surfaces, like a bed, where openings may become blocked.
- Do not place anything on top of a space heater.
- Do not place the heater where it will create a tripping or evacuation hazard and fire doors must not be blocked open to distribute the heat.
- Never plug a heater into dedicated data outlets.
- Do not leave the heater plugged in when not in use.
- Do not use in areas where gasoline, paint, or flammable liquids are used or stored; a heater has hot and arcing or sparking parts inside.
- Do not leave your heater on when the area is not attended or to raise space temperatures beyond 70 degrees during thermostat set back hours.