

HOME SAFETY TIPS

Electric Space Heater Safety Tips

(NAPSA)—The heat is on—in many cases coming from electric space heaters. These portable heat sources can be a great way to keep warm through the colder months, as long as they are properly used.

The following tips are offered by the Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers (AHAM) for safe use of electric space heaters.

1. Read the manufacturer's instructions and warning labels before using the heater.

2. Keep flammable materials far away from heater.

3. Keep electric heaters, like all electric appliances, away from water to help prevent electrical shock. *Do not* use outdoors.

4. Check periodically for secure plug/outlet fit. If the plug does not fit snugly into the outlet or if the plug becomes very hot, the outlet may need to be replaced. Check with a qualified repairman.

5. Unplug heater when not being used by pulling straight out from the outlet, not by pulling the plug at an angle or on the heater's cord. Inspect the cord periodically. *Do not* use a heater with a damaged cord. Consult a professional if you need to replace the cord.

6. Keep heater at least three feet away from flammable objects: curtains, bedding, furniture, etc. *Do not* block heater air intake or exhaust.

7. Place heater on a level, flat surface. *Do not* place heaters on furniture, since they may fall, dislodging or breaking parts in the heater, which could result in a fire or shock hazard.



Electric space heaters can be a terrific convenience in cold weather, but if they're not used properly, they can cause a variety of hazards.

8. Unless heater is designated for use in bathrooms, *do not* use in wet or moist places; parts in the heater may be damaged and a fire or shock hazard may result.

9. String out cords on top of rugs or floors. Do not cover cord or place anything on top of the cord that could damage it.

10. *Do not* use an extension cord unless absolutely necessary. Using an improper extension cord with high-wattage appliances can cause overheating of the extension cord. If you must use an extension cord, it must be marked #14 or #12 (the smaller the number, the larger the size of the wire).

11. Heaters should be kept away from children and not placed in a child's room without supervision.

For more safety and product usage information, visit the Web site at www.aham.org.