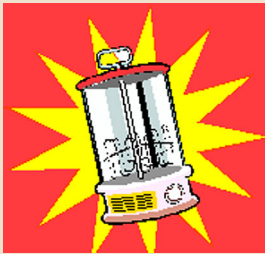


Space Heater Safety Tips

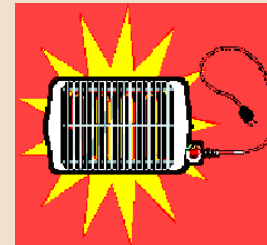
Space heaters are legal and widely used as an alternative heat source during Victoria's mild winters. However, the Victoria Fire Department considers **ANY** heater to be dangerous if not used correctly. The following information is vital to the safety of anyone using a space heater.

- Never use outdoor appliances such as barbecues or charcoal grills indoors.
- Be sure your space heater is in good working condition. All space heaters need frequent checkups and cleaning. A dirty or neglected heater is a critical fire hazard.
- Use heaters that have cutoff switches that turn the heater off if they tip over, and heater element guards that prevent combustible materials from contacting the heating element.
- Use only safety-listed equipment. Space heaters should be labeled with U.L. or other fully accredited independent testing laboratories.
- Keep the heater at least 36 inches from walls and combustible materials such as draperies, furniture, bedding, clothing, etc. Do not hang items to dry above the heater and keep all heaters out of high traffic and exit areas.
- Keep children and pets away from the space heater and never let them be around a space heater without direct supervision. Even the slightest contact with the heating element can cause severe burns or electrical shock, or start a fire. Be very cautious when children are wearing nightgowns which can be drawn into the heater by a draft and ignited.
- Never leave the heater unattended and never leave the house or go to bed without turning off the heater.



Fuel-Burning Space Heater Tips

- Never use fuel burning appliances without at least one open window. Burning fuel (kerosene or propane, for example) produces deadly fumes and can consume all the oxygen in a tightly-sealed home.
- Use only the proper fuel for each heater. Never introduce a fuel into a heating unit not designed for that unit.
- Store kerosene, gasoline or other flammable liquids outside the home at all times.
- Never fill your fuel-burning heater while it is burning.



Electric Space Heater Tips

- Electric space heaters can be a convenient way to heat small areas. Keep in mind they are not practical substitutes for central heating systems since they are not designed for continuous use. A space heater can increase your electric bill dramatically.
- Carefully inspect your heater and its electrical cord and plug before using it. Never use a heater that is damaged or that has a frayed power cord.
- Be sure your house wiring is adequate. Avoid extension cords and do not overload the circuit.
- Avoid using electric heaters in a bathroom. Never touch an electric heater when you are wet.



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