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### Space Heater Safety Tips:

- ✿ **Give the heater some space.** Placing a combustible object too close to a heater is the leading cause of space heater fires. Allow at least three feet of open space on each side of the unit.
- ✿ **Use wall plug-ins.** To prevent a fire, never plug a high-wattage space heater into an extension cord or multi-outlet strip.
- ✿ **Opt for quality.** When shopping for a space heater, select a unit that has all the safety features and the Underwriter's Laboratory (UL) label of approval. Look for the cool-to-the-touch housings and automatic shut off features that turn the unit off if it's tipped over or overheating. Some units will automatically shut off if their infrared sensors detect a person or object that is too close to the heater panel – making them desirable choices for households with kids or pets.
- ✿ **Never run a space heater in an unoccupied room.** Always turn off a space heater when you leave the room, especially if young children or pets could come in contact with the device. Unplug the unit as an extra precaution.
- ✿ **Size matters.** Before purchasing a space heater, check the label to see if it is the appropriate size for the area you want to heat.
- ✿ **Keep electric heaters away from dampness.** Operating units in wet areas such as bathrooms can cause electric shock. If you need additional heat in a damp location, purchase a heater specifically designed for this purpose.
- ✿ **Safety first.** Every room in which you plan to run a space heater should be outfitted with a smoke alarm. If you're operating a gas space heater, also opt for a carbon monoxide alarm.

<http://learningcenter.statefarm.com/safety>



- ✿ Carefully read the operating instructions and markings included with the heater before use.
- ✿ Carefully inspect your heater and its electrical cord and plug before use. Never use a heater that is damaged.
- ✿ Use your heater only as a supplementary source of heat. These devices are not intended to replace your home's heating system.
- ✿ Keep combustibles such as draperies, clothing and furniture at a safe distance – at least three feet away - from the heater.
- ✿ Pay special attention to children if there is a heater in the room. Remind children not to poke their fingers or objects through the protective guard.
- ✿ Avoid using an extension cord with your heater. If you must use an extension cord, it should have a rating 1.25 times the wattage rating of the heater. For example, you should use a cord rated at least 1,875 watts with a 1,500 watt heater.
- ✿ Unplug your heater when not in use.

[www.safetyathome.com](http://www.safetyathome.com)