



Field Guide 22



Space Heater Safety

<http://electricalsafety.lbl.gov/2014/12/02/electric-space-heater-safety/>

Portable heating devices may only be used when there is no chance of injury or fire occurring from their use. This applies to both Lab-provided and personally owned devices used within LBNL spaces on and off site.

You might feel the need to use a portable electric space heater in your work area. We try to avoid the use of space heaters due to power consumption and fire safety concerns. However, if you must use a space heater, consider the following safety requirements.

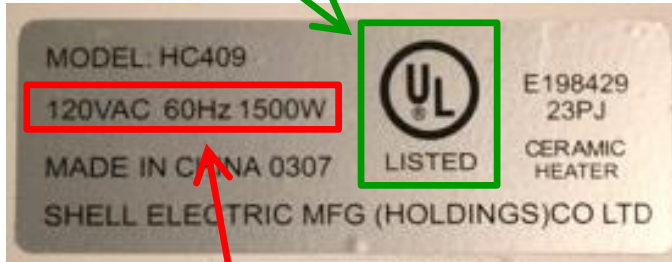
DO !

- Use only NRTL-listed space heaters
- Use only grounded (three-prong plug) or double-insulated space heaters
- Use only space heaters with automatic shut off

DON'T !

- Use space heaters over 500 Watts
- Place space heaters near ignitable materials
- Use extension cords or power strips with space heaters
- Leave space heaters on when you leave your office

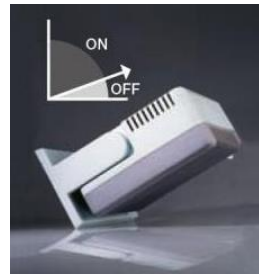
Space heaters must be listed by a Nationally Recognized Testing Laboratory (NRTL).



Heaters must have a maximum rating of 500 Watts (W)

The heater pictured is 1500W...3x the allowable!

NRTL-Listed space heaters will have either automatic shut off when tipped over, or overheat protection. Automatic shut off switches should be tested annually by tilting the heater while on, and verifying the unit turns off when tipped.



ZERO CLEARANCE

Additionally, heaters may be rated Zero Clearance for use nearer combustible materials.

Space heaters should be kept clean, with the cords in good condition, not damaged or frayed.



Always **TURN OFF** space heaters when leaving your office or area for any extended period of time.

Space heaters should be placed on sturdy level surfaces, away from combustible materials such as papers, magazines, drapes, cubicles and office furniture. Do not use around flammable vapors, dusts, or materials

24% of home heating fire deaths were from space heaters placed too close to combustible materials



Remember the 3 foot rule!

Do not use space heaters with extension cords or power strips



80%

of home heating fire deaths involve space heaters



32%

of home heating fires are caused by space heaters

Use only space heaters that have either a grounded (three-prong) plug, or are marked "double insulated" or have the double insulated symbol



Maximum 500 Watts

Space heaters must be plugged directly into a wall outlet



Always read the manufacturers instructions for the unit before using and read / follow instructions on the unit



Don't try to heat an entire suite or floor with a space heater. Portable electric heaters are designed for supplemental heating of single rooms, or small areas.

Contact the Facilities Work Request Center at ext. 6274 if:

- the heating requirement is permanent;
- you have found that multiple persons within your office suite or space are using electric portable space heaters to supplement the heat in the same area;
- your space heater causes the circuit breaker to trip;
- a new wall outlet is needed to not use an extension cord;

For 24-hour operation (e.g., during construction or maintenance shutdown), obtain a permit by calling Protective Services for the proposed operation. Post the permit conspicuously near the appliance.

SUGGESTED HEATERS THAT MEET THE CRITERIA

MANUFACTURER	DESCRIPTION	WATTS	NRTL	SAFETY DEVICE	TYPE
NewAir	AH-400	400	YES	Tip-Over Switch	Radiant convection; no fan
iHeater	Micro 250	450	YES	Overheat Protection	Infrared; with fan
Lasko	MyHeat 100	200	YES	Overheat Protection	Infrared; with fan
Cozy Products	Cozy Legs	150	YES	Zero-Clearance	Radiant; no fan
Cozy Products	Toasty Toes	90	YES	Zero-Clearance	Radiant; no fan
Cozy Products	Foot Warmer	90	YES	Zero-Clearance	Radiant; no fan
Cozy Products	Super Foot Warmer	135	YES	Zero-Clearance	Radiant; no fan
Optimus	H-4110	300	YES	Tip-Over Switch	Radiant; no fan
Optimus	H-7800	300	YES	Tip-Over Switch	Infrared; with fan