



Space Heater Safety

Did you know?

Space heaters cause an average of 1,700 fires and 80 deaths each year. If you are using a space heater for extra heat, it is important to use it safely.

Action Plan

- ☐ Keep the space heater at least 3 feet away from curtains, furniture, or anything that can catch on fire. Never hang clothes over a space heater to dry.
- ☐ Keep children and pets at least 3 feet away from the space heater to prevent burns or extreme heat exposure.
- ☐ Place the heater on a bare, uncarpeted floor, not on a table, rug, or other surface.
- ☐ Plug directly into a wall outlet. Do not use an extension cord or power strip, as this could lead to overloading and cause a fire.
- ☐ Turn off or unplug the heater when not in the room and when sleeping.
- ☐ Gas/kerosene space heaters can cause a buildup of carbon monoxide, which can be deadly. They should be serviced at least annually and vented according to the manufacturer's instructions. Never use gasoline in a space heater – it can explode.
- ☐ Always have working smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors in your home.

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Did You Know?

Space heaters should not be your main heating source.

- Under New York State law, tenants have the right to a livable apartment, which includes access to proper heating.
- Landlords must provide heat so that your home is at least 68° F during the cold weather season.

Speak to your landlord if you don't have enough heat. Call your local housing and/or health department if you need additional help.

To learn more, visit: nycourts.gov, search "Warranty of Habitability," and click the first link.

Resources

If you are having trouble paying your heating bill, visit ny.gov/services and search "Apply for Heating and Cooling Assistance (HEAP)."

For more information on heating your home safely, visit health.ny.gov/environmental and search "Supplemental Space Heaters."

Visit nyscheck.org/rx to learn about these other cold weather-related topics:

- click "Carbon Monoxide."
- click "Know Your Tenant Rights: Heating Your Home."
- click "Cold Weather Safety."

It is important to have an escape plan in case of a fire. For tips on making a fire safety plan, visit nfpa.org, search "Escape Planning Tips," and click the first link.

For more information visit: nyscheck.org/rxs



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