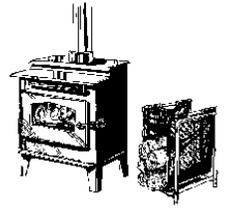


Heating Safety Tips



Keep anything that can burn **at least three feet** from all heating equipment, like wall heaters, fireplaces, woodstoves, space heaters, hot water heaters, heat lamps, etc.

Woodstove and Fireplace Safety

- Have a certified chimney sweep clean and inspect your chimney and fireplace for creosote build-up, cracks, crumbling bricks and obstructions.
- When you clean your fireplace or wood stove place the ashes in a metal container. The metal container should be kept outside at least three feet away from anything that burns. Make sure the ashes are completely out before disposing of them.
- A flue fire can ruin your chimney or stovepipe. To prevent flue fires, burn dry, well-seasoned wood. Burn small, hot fires. Don't burn trash. Clean as needed.
- Always use a fireplace screen made of sturdy metal or heat-tempered glass to prevent sparks from escaping. (If children are present, use a special child-guard screen as a barrier for your woodstove.)

Gas / Propane

- Like many other efficient fuels, natural gas and propane are highly flammable; this means it can be dangerous if not handled properly.
- Have your gas appliances maintained by a qualified professional.
- If using a gas or propane fueled heater or appliance, make sure it is designed for indoor use. Follow the manufacturer's instructions for use and proper venting.
- Do not use propane barbecues (or any other type of barbecue) indoors.
- If you smell gas, do not operate any switches, appliances, or thermostats. A spark from one of these could ignite the gas. Get everyone outside and away from the building. Shut off the gas supply. Call your propane supplier from a neighbor's phone.

Portable Heaters

- Vacuum and clean the dust and lint from all heaters. A buildup of dust and lint can cause a fire.
- Check the cord on portable electric heaters. If the cord gets hot, frayed, or cracked have the heater serviced or replaced.
- Never use extension cords with portable electric heaters or heating devices.
- Turn off portable heaters when family members leave the house or are sleeping.
- An adult should always be present when a space heater is used around children.
- Make sure your portable electric heater is UL approved and has a tip-over shut off function and/or a high temperature shut off switch.

Heat lamps

- If you will be using a heat lamp, maintain 3 feet of clearance from anything that can burn. If using a heat lamp to keep animals warm, take extra steps to ensure the 3-foot clearance will not be lessened by animals knocking the lamps over and/or pushing bedding too close to them.

Heat Tape

- Follow the manufacturer's directions with this product, as different tapes have different requirements.
- Replace uncertified heat tapes more than 3 years old with new certified tape. All new tapes have a 3-prong plug.
- Always use a 3-prong plug to a 3-prong outlet to make sure heat tape is grounded.
- Use a ground fault circuit-interrupter (GFCI) wherever heat tape is used.
- Do not wrap heat tape over itself unless approved by the manufacturer's instructions.
- Apply heat tape directly on the pipe to be protected, never on the top of insulation covering the pipe.
- Do not cover heat tape with insulation unless approved by the manufacturer's instructions. If allowed, use noncombustible insulation such as fiber glass. Do not use foam or vinyl insulation that could catch fire.
- Keep the end-cap sealed and off the ground to prevent water from getting in and causing a fire.
- Inspect heat tape each year and replace it if you notice signs of deterioration. Look for discolored surfaces (especially at the plug), charring, cuts or breaks in the insulation, or bare wire.
(The heat tape information above was provided by the US Consumer Product Safety Commission.)

Alternative Heat Sources

- Kerosene heaters are not approved for use in homes in Oregon. Kerosene heaters can emit poisonous fumes.
- Barbecues, charcoal grills, and camp stoves are for outdoor use only. These items can produce carbon monoxide. Odorless and colorless, a build-up of carbon monoxide can be deadly.

Carbon Monoxide Alarms

- Install and maintain Carbon Monoxide alarms in homes that have sources of Carbon Monoxide. Any appliance that uses or has a flame can be a source of Carbon Monoxide.
- Carbon Monoxide alarms should be installed per the manufacturer's directions within 15 feet of all sleeping areas.