



## **THE DOS AND DON'TS OF SPACE HEATERS**

Use space heaters on the floor. Never place space heaters on furniture, since they may fall dislodging or breaking parts in the heater, which could result in a fire or shock hazard.

Do not use heaters in wet or moist places such as bathrooms, as parts in the heater may be damaged and a fire or shock hazard may result.

Watch closely that these heaters in your home or offices are placed at least three (3) feet from walls, furniture and anything that can burn. Never leave heaters on when you leave your office or home or even when you go to bed, and keep children and pets well away from them.

String out cords on top of rugs or floors. Placing anything on top of the cord could cause the cord to overheat.

Do not use an extension cord unless absolutely necessary. Using an extension cord with high wattage appliances can start a fire. If you must use an extension cord, it must be marked 14 or #12 AWG, this tells the thickness or gauge of the wire in the cord. (The smaller the number, the greater the thickness of the wire.) For example, a cord sold as an air conditioner extension cord will have these heavy wires. Do not use a cord marked #16 or #18 AWG, ONLY use extension cords bearing the label of an independent testing laboratory such as UL or ETL.

Be sure the plug fits snugly in the outlet. Since a loose plug may overheat have a qualified repairman replace the worn out plug or outlet. Since heaters draw lots of power, the cord and plug may feel warm. But if the plug feels hot, unplug the heater and have a qualified repairman check for problems. If the heater and its plug are found to be working properly, have the outlet replaced. Using a heater with a hot cord or plug could start a fire.

If a heater is used on an outlet protected by a ground fault circuit interrupted (GFCI) and the GFCI trips, do not assume the GFCI is broken. Because GFCI's protect the location where leakage currents can cause a sever shock, stop using the heater and have it checked, even if it seems to be working properly. Broken heaters should be checked and repaired by a qualified appliance service center. Do not attempt to repair, adjust or replace parts in the heater yourself.

## **SUGGESTIONS ON ALL SPACE HEATERS**

Buy a space heater with a guard around the flame area or the heating coil. This will help keep children, pets and clothing away from the heat source.

When selecting heaters look for one that has been listed and labeled by a nationally recognized testing company. It will provide important use and care information to the consumer.

Read and follow the manufacture's operating instructions. A good practice is to read aloud the instructions and warning labels to all members of the household to be certain that everyone understands how the heater is to operate safely. Keep the owners manual in a convenient place to refer to when needed.

Never use a space heater overnight in the room where you are sleeping. Dangerous levels of carbon monoxide could accumulate from fuel fired heaters, or uncontrolled burning could cause a fire.