

What's the Risk?

Temporary Space Heaters

Introduction

Temporary electric space heaters are an effective way to provide heat. These are known as construction heaters, garage heaters, milk-house heaters, 4.8 kw heaters, ceramic heaters and oil-filled heaters. Most of these heaters are only approved for temporary use.



What's the Risk?

If installed and/or not used in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions the risk of fire can occur. Due to the high heat output of these heaters improper use or installation increases the likelihood of a fire. As well, the heating elements have been known to unexpectedly fail, resulting in serious fires. Extreme caution should be used when using these heaters.

What can be done?

- If not approved for permanent installation these heaters should only be used for temporary heat in supervised conditions.
- Only purchase heaters which have been approved by an accredited certification organization such as CSA (Canadian Standards Association), UL (United Laboratories), ULC (United Laboratories Canada) or WH (Warnock Hersey).
- Always follow the manufacturer's instructions for use and installation requirements.
- Temporary heaters are generally designed to be used on non-combustible floors and should not be hung from rafters, electrical wiring or hooks mounted on the ceiling.
- Ensure the heater has proper clearance to combustibles and proper ventilation.
- Never modify the heater or power cord.
- Avoid the use of extension cords with these heaters.
- Store the heater in a dry location when not in use.
- Inspect the heater for damage before each use.

