

Portable Space Heaters Safety Bulletin

Portable Space Heaters

The areas addressed in this bulletin are the selection and use of portable space heaters. These items are regulated by University policy, the Township-adopted 2006 Edition of the International Fire Code and the State-adopted 2006 Edition of the NFPA Uniform Fire Code 1. These items are regulated due to their potential to create a fire from lack of safety features or improper placement.



Selection

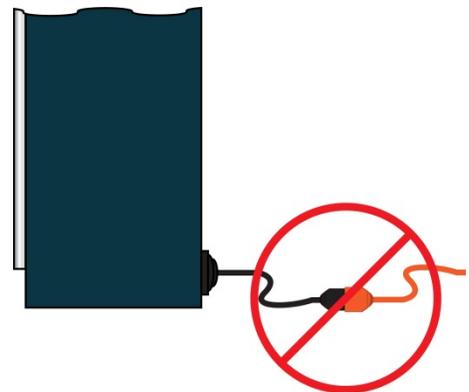
The only portable space heaters allowed in University Buildings are ones that meet the following requirements:

- Listed and labeled (By UL or approved equivalent).
- Does not have metal screen/heating element cover.
- Does not have an exposed heating element.

Portable space heaters that do not meet these requirements pose a fire hazard to the University and the owner will be asked to remove it. The recommended portable space heater is one that is an oil filled radiator type.

Placement

Portable space heaters must be kept 3ft. away from all flammable objects (paper, clothes, etc.). Portable space heaters must be plugged directly into a wall receptacle or a power strip equipped with a circuit breaker. They may not be plugged into an extension cord.



Referenced Statutes:

- 2006 Edition IFC – 605.10 – “Portable electric space heaters shall comply with sections 605.10.1 through 605.10.4.”
- 2006 NFPA 1 – 11.5.3.1 – “The AHJ shall be permitted to prohibit use of portable electric heaters in occupancies or situations where such use or operation would present an undue danger to life or property.”