Electric Space Heaters

E · https://fo.umich.edu/fosg/electric-space-heaters/

Facilities & Operations recognizes that individuals have different levels of comfort associated with temperature and heat. Before considering the purchase of an electric space heater, please contact the Facilities Service Center at 647-2059 or requests.fo.umich.edu and allow us the opportunity to investigate the situation.

If the situation cannot be corrected immediately, the use of an electric space heater, as a temporary measure, is allowed according to the following guidelines:

- Space heaters must be electric powered and ideally, oil-filled or ceramic.
- Fuel-powered (such as propane, wood, natural gas, or kerosene) space heaters are not permitted inside occupied buildings.
- Space heaters must not take more than 110 volts of electricity to operate.
- Space heaters that have exposed heating elements (the type that glow red hot) are not recommended.
- Space heaters must have a Tip-Over Shutdown feature and must be UL (Underwriters Laboratory) approved.
- Space heaters must have a thermostat that automatically shuts off when a certain temperature is reached.
- Space heaters should be kept at least 3 feet away from any combustible material and should always be turned off and unplugged when area being heated is not occupied.
- Nothing should ever be placed on top of or touching a space heater.
- Do not place heaters under desks or in other enclosed areas.
- Heaters must be plugged directly into a wall receptacle. Never plug a heater into an extension cord or portable power strip / surge protector. Never plug space heaters into dedicated data receptacles.
- Heaters need to be monitored daily. Heaters that are missing guards, control knobs, feet, or other parts must be taken out of service immediately and repaired by a competent person or discarded.

Electric space heaters are typically extremely inefficient and use large amounts of electricity. Facilities & Operations recommends minimal use of these heaters for both environmental and safety reasons.

Note: Only oil-filled electric radiator space heaters are approved for University of Michigan Hospitals and Health Centers. Space heaters are not allowed in dorm rooms according to Housing policy.