

Heating

Heating equipment is a leading cause of home fires during the months of December, January and February, and trails only [cooking](#) equipment in home fires year-round.



Facts & figures

- In 2005, heating equipment was involved in an estimated 62,200 reported U.S. home structure fires, with associated losses of 670 civilian deaths, 1,550 civilian injuries, and \$909 million in direct property damage.
 - In 2005 heating equipment fires accounted for 16% of all reported home fires (second behind cooking) and 22% of home fire deaths. Space heaters, whether portable or stationary, accounted for one-third (32%) of the home heating fires and three-fourths (73%) of home heating fire deaths in 2005.
 - Excluding small confined fires, heating equipment too close to things that can burn, such as upholstered furniture, clothing, mattress, or bedding, is by far the leading factor contributing to home heating fires (27%) and home heating fire deaths (53%).
- ▶ When buying a space heater, make sure it carries the mark of an independent testing laboratory and is legal for use in your community (i.e. some communities do not permit portable kerosene heaters).
 - ▶ Install your stationary (fixed) space heater according to manufacturer's instructions or applicable codes or better yet, have it installed by a professional.
 - ▶ Plug your electric-powered space heater into an outlet with sufficient capacity; never into an extension cord.
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