

Space Heaters Guideline

Revision: May 20, 2019

Applies To:

Environment, Health & Safety, Fire Safety Services does **not** recommend specific makes/models of portable space heaters for use on campus, but we do have the following guidelines for any heaters that are used:

Criteria for Heaters Allowed to be Used on Campus

- Only electric heaters should be used.
- All heaters **must** be UL listed or Factory Mutual approved for their intended use.
- Heaters **must** have a thermostat to automatically shut down the unit when the desired temperature is achieved.
- Heaters **must** have "tip protection" - the heater **must** turn off automatically if tipped over.
- Only oil filled electric radiator space heaters are approved for the University of Michigan Hospitals and Health Centers.

NOTE: Portable space heating devices are prohibited in patient care areas. The approved heaters may only be used in non-sleeping staff and employee areas.

NOTE: Portable space heaters are prohibited in laboratories using or storing flammable, combustible, and/or explosive (highly energetic compounds) chemicals.

NOTE: Space heaters are prohibited in child care centers.

Types of Heaters Not Allowed to be Used on Campus

- Heaters with exposed heating elements or open flames, even if they are UL listed, should **not** be utilized.
- Units that produce heat by means of burning a fuel, such as wood, propane, natural gas, or fuel oil should **not** be used, even if they are UL listed.

Proper Use of Heaters

- Heaters **must** be kept at least 3 feet (36 inches) from all combustible materials.
- Do **not** place heaters under desks or in other enclosed areas.
- Heaters **must not** be utilized while unattended and **must** be monitored while in operation.
- Heaters **must** be plugged directly into a wall receptacle. Never plug a heater into an extension cord or portable power strip / surge protector.
- 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.