

REED COLLEGE  
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND SAFETY  
SPACE HEATER SAFETY.



Required safety features and specifications.

1. Contain a tip over shut-off feature and overheat thermal cutoff.
2. Built in thermostat that automatically shut down unit when desired temperature is achieved.
3. Underwriters Listed or Factory Mutual approved for their intended use.

Safe usage and placement.

1. Plug directly into wall outlet without using extension cords or power strips which pose an overheating and fire risk.
2. Locate visibly, away from exits and at least 3 feet away from combustible materials eg file cabinets, curtains, desks and paper cans.
3. Monitor heater when in operation.
4. Space heaters of any type are prohibited in the laboratories and in the presence of children.
5. Placing items on top of space heater is prohibited.

Maintenance.

1. A professional must immediately repair missing guards, broken controls frayed/damaged cords etc.
2. Turn off heater when heated area is not occupied.
3. Keep heater away from wet or damp conditions.

Kerosene Heater Safety.

1. Use only the fuel recommended by the manufacturer
2. Allow heater to cool completely before refueling; wipe up any fuel spills immediately.
3. Refuel outside or in a well-ventilated area.
4. If using an unvented heater, keep the doors to the rest of the house open to avoid pollutant buildup.
5. Keep the wick clean and properly adjusted.
6. Never fill the fuel tank above the fill line.

Electric Heater Safety.

1. Keep the heater's cord away from areas where it may be tripped over or walked on.
2. Make sure the plug fits properly in the outlet; a loose plug can overheat.

Wood Burning Heater Safety

1. Heater must meet EPA emission standards.
2. Check chimney and stovepipes frequently for buildup; have them cleaned annually.
3. Place the heater on a floor protector or fire resistant floor.
4. Start fire with paper, kindling, never with flammable liquid like lighter fluid, kerosene or gasoline, and only burn dry seasoned wood.
5. Use a metal container for removing ash.

Gas heater safety

1. Replace heaters without an oxygen depletion sensor (ODS).
2. If pilot light of heater goes out allow 5 minutes before trying to light the heater again.
3. Do not attempt to light if you smell gas in unit.
4. Light match before turning the gas on.