

# Heating Safety

**Most residential fires involve space heaters, gas heaters, and kerosene heaters accounting for the highest fatality risk. All heating systems-including fireplaces-can be dangerous if they are not used and maintained properly. When purchasing any type of heater look for automatic shut-off safety features and the mark of an independent testing laboratory, indicating that the heater has met basic safety standards.**

## Vents and Chimneys:

All fueled heaters must be vented to prevent dangerous carbon-monoxide build-up in your home. Have your chimney inspected by a professional before each heating season and have it cleaned. Consider installing a spark arrester on top of any chimney that vents a solid-fuel stove or fireplace.



## Space Heaters:

Keep all combustible materials away from portable and space heaters. Place all space heaters away from furniture, walls, and flammable objects. Plug your space heater into an outlet with sufficient capacity and never into an extension cord. Turn off space heaters whenever the room is unoccupied and before you go to bed.

## Liquid-Fuel Safety:

Use the proper grade of fuel for your liquid-fueled space heater. Never use a substitute or lower-grade fuel and never use gasoline in any heater not approved for gasoline use. Refuel your heater outdoors away from fire hazards and when equipment is cool.

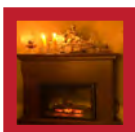


## Gas-Fueled Heaters:

Make sure fuel-burning equipment is vented to the outside that the venting is kept clear and unobstructed, and the exit point is properly sealed around the vent. Never install non-vented gas heaters in bedrooms or bathrooms. Carbon monoxide can build up to dangerous levels in any small, enclosed space.

## Wood or Coal Stoves:

To protect the floor under wood or coal stoves, put down approved protection or a floor protector. Install wood and coal stoves at least three feet (one meter) away from walls and furniture. Use only dry, seasoned wood in a fireplace or wood stove. Use only paper or kindling wood, not a flammable liquid, to start the fire. Do not use artificial logs in wood stoves.



## Fireplaces:

When you use your fireplace use a fire screen made of sturdy metal or heat-tempered glass. Burn only seasoned wood and add carefully.

**For more information about heating safety, visit the IDHS website: [www.in.gov/dhs](http://www.in.gov/dhs)**

