

SPACE HEATER EFFICIENCY

STAYING WARM WITHOUT BREAKING THE BANK

Heating is our biggest energy consumer, so when you can do it efficiently, you will notice savings on your bill. A cozy solution for providing additional warmth in your home can be a portable space heater. However, the cost of using one of these small heaters can add up to big dollars if you're not careful.

SPACE HEATER COSTS ADD UP FAST

While space heaters can quickly warm up a small area or keep your feet warm in the evenings, they are not designed to be your primary heat source. Running one small space heater for a short duration may not break the bank, but central heating is more efficient than a space heater when heating the same amount of space over longer periods.

Using one 1500-watt plug-in space heater for as little as two hours per day over a month can end up costing you nearly \$10 extra on your monthly electric bill. This includes any small electric space heaters or decorative electric fireplaces with heat features.

Also, operating a space heater while other appliances like your dishwasher or dryer are running adds to your demand charges. The more hours your space heater operates, the more days you turn it on, and the more appliances running simultaneously, the faster those charges add up.

LOW-COST WAYS TO STAY WARM




Warming your body first costs much less than warming a whole room or your whole house. Use these tips before you crank up the heater:

- **Dress in layers.** Keep your core and feet warm with sweaters, socks, and slippers.
- **Decorate for warmth.** Add rugs to hard floors, flannel sheets on beds, and cozy up with blankets on the sofa.
- **Use the sun.** Open curtains during the day to let the sun naturally warm your home. Close them at night to prevent heat from escaping.
- **Don't block airflow.** Clear couches or rugs from vents so warm air can flow freely.



Space Heater Sticker Shock

Added cost to operate one 1500-watt electric space heater for 30 days.

 2 Hours per day	 4 Hours per day	 8 Hours per day
\$8.95 month	\$17.90 month	\$35.80 month

Figures based on the operation of one 1500-watt space heater for the duration for 30 consecutive days. A 1500 watt space heater on United Power's standard residential rate will cost \$0.1492 per hour to operate. Figures do not include demand charges of \$1.50/kW.



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SPACE HEATER SAFETY

TIPS TO USE SUPPLEMENTAL HEAT SAFELY

Electric space heaters can help warm a room quickly, and some models even add the look and ambiance of a cozy electric fireplace. However, they can be dangerous if used improperly. While using a space heater, it is important to follow the manufacturer's instructions for your unit and to follow these safety tips for space heater use.



STAY WARM AND SAFE WITH THESE TIPS

- **Give it room.** Keep space heaters at least three feet from anything that may catch on fire, such as drapes, furniture, or bedding. If you are using it in a workshop or garage, be especially mindful of flammable items like paint, gas cans, or matches.
- **Keep it out of reach.** Keep space heaters out of reach of small children and pets who could risk burns from accidental contact.
- **Set it smart.** Place the heater on a solid, flat surface and never cover it with anything, which can increase fire risk. Also, be mindful of high-traffic areas and doorways where the heater may pose a tripping and burning hazard.
- **Test your detectors.** Before using a space heater, ensure your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors are in good working condition.
- **Watch the cord.** Keep the power cord from getting stepped on, and do not run it under rugs, carpeting, or furniture.
- **Plug it directly.** Plug the heater directly into an outlet. Be sure the plug fits tightly and is the only device plugged into the outlet. Using a space heater with extension cords and power strips could cause overheating.
- **Watch for water.** To prevent shocks, always keep electric heaters away from water and never touch an electric heater if you are wet.
- **Check it.** Do frequent checks to see if the plug, cord, wall outlet, or faceplate is hot; if so, stop using it immediately. Be especially wary of a hot cord; it is likely defective or damaged and could spark and ignite a fire.
- **Use it for heat.** Space heaters are only meant to provide supplemental heat; do not use them to warm bedding, cook food, dry clothing, or thaw pipes.
- **Run it in spurts.** Only use your heater for short periods; it should not operate for 24 hours per day.
- **Turn it off.** Do not use space heaters unattended, in a child's room (where kids might knock it over or burn themselves), or while you are sleeping. Use programmable timers to ensure heaters turn off automatically.
- **Unplug it.** Always unplug the heater and store it safely when you're not using it.



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