

# Winter Home Heating Safety Tips

Stay **safe** and **warm** this winter with these home heating tips.

## Helpful Heating Hints

- Supervise children when using wood or oil stoves or space heaters. Use a sturdy metal screen to prevent sparks and burns.
- All heaters need space. Keep anything that can burn at least three feet (one meter) away from heating equipment.
- Use heating equipment that has the label of a recognized testing laboratory.
- Never use your oven or stove for heating. Ovens and stoves are not designed to heat your home.
- Install space heating equipment, water heaters, or central heating equipment according to local codes and the manufacturer's instructions.
- Have a qualified professional install all equipment.
- Make sure fuel-burning equipment is vented to the outside to avoid carbon monoxide poisoning.
- Ensure all heating equipment, chimneys and furnaces are installed by qualified professionals and all equipment is cleaned and inspected by professionals annually.

## Electric Space Heaters

- Turn heaters off when you go to bed or leave the room.
- Place space heaters on a solid, flat surface and keep them, and their electrical cords, away from things that can burn.
- Plug space heaters directly into wall outlets and never into an extension cord or power strip.
- Inspect for cracked or damaged cords, broken plugs, or loose connections. Replace them before using the space heater.



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## Wood-Burning Stoves

- In wood stoves, burn only dry, seasoned wood. In pellet stoves, burn only dry, seasoned wood pellets.
- Start the fire with newspaper, kindling, or fire starters. Never use a flammable liquid, such as lighter fluid, kerosene, or gasoline, to start a fire.
- Keep the doors of your wood stove closed unless loading or stoking the live fire.
- Allow ashes to cool before disposal. Douse and saturate the ashes with water and place in a tightly covered metal container



## Fuel-Burning Space Heaters

- Always use the proper fuel as specified by the manufacturer.
- When refueling, allow the appliance to cool first and then refuel outside.
- If the pilot light of your gas heater goes out, allow five minutes or more for the gas to dissipate before trying to relight the pilot.
- If you smell gas in your gas heater, do not light the appliance. Leave the building immediately and call 911, the fire department, or the gas company.

## Fireplaces



- Always use a metal or heat-tempered glass screen on a fireplace and keep it in place.
- Burn only dry, seasoned wood. Never burn trash in the fireplace.
- Use artificial fire logs according to manufacturer's recommendations.
- Use only newspaper, kindling wood or fire starters to start a fire.
- Never use flammable liquids, such as lighter fluid, kerosene, or gasoline, to start a fire.
- Keep children and pets away. Have a kid-free zone of at least three feet (one meter) away from the fireplace.

For more information, see the Manitoba Office of the Fire Commissioner website at: [www.firecomm.gov.mb.ca](http://www.firecomm.gov.mb.ca)

