

Cost to Operate

The cost to operate an electric space heater will vary based on the type of heater you are using, the size of the room you are heating and the amount of time the heater is running. To calculate the cost of operation:

- 1) Obtain the wattage (watts) from the nameplate. Note: if listed as kW (kilowatts), skip to step 3. If amps are specified, multiply amps x voltage to obtain watts.
- 2) Divide the number of watts by 1000 to get kW. Example: $1500W \div 1000 = 1.5kW$.
- 3) To find out how many kilowatt-hours (kWh) the heater uses, multiply the kW x the number of hours the heater is running each day. Example: The heater runs for 10 hours per day = $1.5kW \times 10 \text{ hours} = 15 \text{ kWh}$ per day.
- 4) To calculate the daily operating cost, multiply the kWh of the heater by the average cost per kWh. Example: The daily cost = $15 \text{ kWh} \times \$0.148 = \2.22 per day to operate.
- 5) To calculate the monthly operating cost, multiply the daily cost by the number of days the heater is used during the month. Example: If you run the 1500W heater 10 hours per day, 30 days per month = $15 \text{ kWh} \times \$0.148 \times 30 = \66.60 .



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Choosing The Right Electric Space Heater

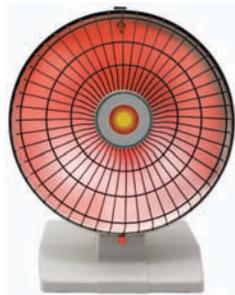


Space heaters are great for warming chilly areas of your home. You can potentially reduce your overall heating costs by turning down your central heating thermostat and using supplemental space heating for only the rooms you spend the most time in.

There are different types of electric space heaters to choose from. The information in this brochure will help you choose the type best suited to your needs.

The first step in choosing a space heater is determining where and how it will be used. Things to consider in this step are: the volume of your room and whether or not you will be staying in one place.

There are three types of electric space heaters:



Radiant

A radiant heater emits infrared radiation that heats up objects and people directly in front of it, not the air in the room. If you will be in one place in direct

line of sight to the heater or if you are using a room for a short period, a radiant heater can be more efficient because it avoids heating the entire room. However, radiant heaters get very hot, and can cause burns and

fires if precautionary measures are not taken. They should not be placed near furniture, curtains, pets or small children. When considering this type of unit, one with a tip-over switch to automatically cut power is crucial.



Convection

A convection heater quietly warms a room by heating the air in it. As air is warmed by the heater it rises, forcing cooler air down and

circulating warm air without the use of a fan. Convection heaters have a lower surface temperature than radiant heaters; with a lower risk of fire and burns. This type of heater is usually a safe option where small children are present.



Fan-Forced

These types of heaters are generally smaller and use a fan to circulate air over their heating coils into the room. They often are timer activated and supply heat when

you demand it. Fan-forced heaters are versatile and common, but can be noisy.

Safety Features

For any type of space heater, safety features are an important consideration. Purchase a unit with a tip-over safety

switch and overheat sensor. Make sure the heater has the Underwriter's Laboratory (UL) label attached to it. Additionally, electric heaters should always be plugged directly into the wall outlet to avoid overloading an extension cord.

Be sure to read and follow all directions and safety precautions provided by the manufacturer of your space heater.

Efficiency

Electric resistance heating converts nearly 100% of the energy in the electricity to heat. One unit of electricity consumed equals one unit of heat produced. Any heater that uses a fan or ductwork will have some degree of efficiency losses associated with the heat distribution, but may provide a more uniformly heated, comfortable home. Space heaters are not meant to replace a central heating system and will be most efficient in a weatherized home. Beware of advertising that seems too good to be true.

Some efficiency features to look for are: an adjustable thermostat, several heat settings and a timer.

For more information on space heating, visit the U. S. Department of Energy's website at www.energysavers.gov.