



Space Heaters and Portable Heaters

A space heater and portable heater can be an energy efficient way to heat a room or two, and they are especially handy when you want extra warmth in one room without heating the entire house. Finding the right one depends on how much one will use it and the size of the area you want to heat.

Types of Electric Space Heaters

The most common methods of heat generation are radiant heat, convection heat, and ceramic heat. These methods may also be combined in a variety of ways within a single electric heater, and they often use a fan to help circulate the heat.



Convection Heaters

Convection heaters use the air circulation in a room to continuously circulate heat. They contain a heated liquid that is completely sealed off and will not need refilling or changing. This liquid holds the heat, while a heating element distributes it into the air. Convection works best in rooms that are completely sealed off, with doors and windows closed, as this allows it to circulate the same warm air in and out, keeping it warm.



Radiant Heaters

A radiant heater can very efficiently provide heat to a small space, and it is a quiet and effective space heating option. This type of heater generates warmth by using infrared rays and can also be referred to as a reflective heater. This type of heater is very energy efficient but works best in a small space and when directed at the people who are trying to feel the warmth.



Ceramic Heaters

These heaters use a ceramic heating element to generate warmth, which is then circulated using a fan. Many have the option to oscillate, which allows them to heat a room more effectively. They are useful in small to medium spaces, depending on the size and power of the fan and the size of the ceramic element and fan, and include safety features such as auto shut-off to prevent fire risks.



Combination Heaters

Some electric heaters combine convection with radiant heat to create a fast and effective method of heating an entire room. These are generally called panel heaters, and they can heat larger spaces without resorting to a fan to circulate the heat.

Electric Heater Type	How It Works	Most Efficient For
Convection	Circulates air from the room through heated liquid and element	Large rooms that are sealed off
Radiant	Infrared waves	Small spaces with only one or two people
Ceramic	Ceramic heating element with a fan	Moderately sized rooms, moving heat around the room
Combination/Panel Heaters	Convection and radiant working together	Larger spaces

Thermostatically Controlled Heaters

Thermostatically controlled electric heaters allow the heaters to turn itself on and off when it hits a pre-set temperature, keeping the room warm without running constantly. Some heaters also

include a timer, which can turn the heat on and off automatically, preventing it from running when not needed.

Electric Heater Styles

Electric heaters come in a few different styles and sizes. The style and shape of heater you choose depends on your space and how much room you have for a heater. A larger heater can usually heat a bigger room more quickly, but small heaters with fans and oscillating ability can also be very effective at spreading heat

Baseboard heaters

- They sit low to the ground and run along the base of the wall

Tower Heaters

- They are tall and narrow and fit well in small rooms that lack space

Radiator shaped heaters

- Look like the old-style radiators and have a bit of a retro appeal

Panel heaters

- Are generally square

Some Safety Tips

Clear the area around a heater. Make sure that there are no papers, fabrics, trash, cleaning supplies, paints, nail polish removal or aerosol cans near the heater

Avoid using extension cords. If you must make sure the cord is mark No. 14 or No. 12 AWG. A regular household extension cord is not good. The household cord can make you at risk for an electrical fire.

Choose a heater with an automatic shutoff that will engage if the unit is tipped over.

Note: Information was obtain from multiple sources and has been checked for suitability. However, a successful solution depends on individual accuracy, skill, and caution. For this reason, Electric Trading Company does not guarantee the result of procedure compliance or assume responsibility for personal injury or property damage to persons following these procedures.