



Weekly Safety Tip

How to Use Your Space Heater



How to Safely Use a Space Heater



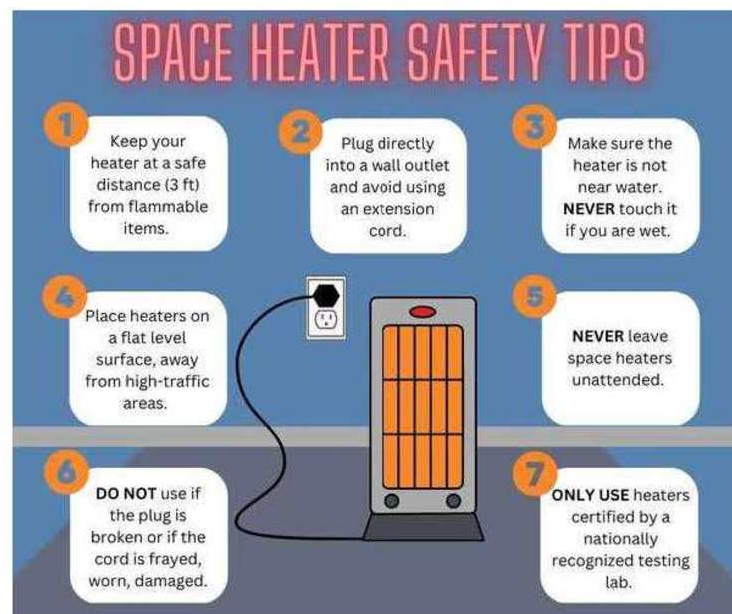
Space heaters provide extra warmth to a drafty room or chilly home office, but can easily pose a safety risk if not used properly. **Portable space heaters were involved in an average of 1,600 house fires a year from 2019 to 2021, according to the [Consumer Product Safety Commission \(CPSC\)](#), resulting in an average of 70 deaths annually.**

If you rely on a portable heater for supplemental heat, it's important to make space heater safety a priority.

Nearly half of all home heating fires happen, and during the months of December, January February—and they're often caused when a heater is placed too close to curtains, bedding, or upholstered furniture.

Consumer Reports, as well as the [Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers](#) and the [National Fire Protection Association](#), offer the following safety tips:

- Place the heater on a hard, level, and nonflammable surface. These appliances are intended to sit on the floor, not on a table.
- Establish a 3-foot kid- and pet-free zone around the heater, and never put a space heater in a child's room.
- Keep the space heater at least 3 feet away from combustible materials, such as furniture, bedding, and curtains. A taller heater may need to be even farther away.
- Don't use a heater in a workshop or garage, or in a space with any flammable paints, gas cans, or matches.
- Turn the heater off when you leave the room or go to bed.
- Unplug the heater when it's not in use by pulling the plug straight from the outlet. Check the cord for damage periodically, and don't use the heater if the cord is frayed or worn.
- Don't plug another electrical device or an extension cord into the same outlet as a heater. This can cause overheating.
- Install working smoke alarms on every level of your home and in every bedroom, and test them monthly.



Weekly Safety Share



**Community Safety Moment on
THC**

A Community Safety Moment



Nearly half of drivers killed in crashes had THC in their blood

THC-impaired driving deaths are soaring, and legalization hasn't slowed the trend.

Over **40% of fatal crash victims had THC levels far above legal limits**, showing cannabis use before driving remains widespread.

The rate didn't drop after legalization, suggesting policy changes haven't altered risky habits.

Experts warn that the lack of public awareness around marijuana's dangers behind the wheel is putting lives at risk.



Nearly half of all drivers who died in crashes tested positive for active THC, averaging dangerously high levels.

Despite legalization, the risk has remained constant—prompting renewed calls for stronger anti-drug-driving campaigns.

Key Takeaways

- In a review of **246 deceased drivers, 41.9% tested positive for active THC in their blood**, with an average level of 30.7 ng/mL -- far exceeding most state impairment limits.
- The high rate of THC positivity remained consistent over six years and was unaffected by the state's legalization of recreational cannabis during the study period.
- Messaging around the dangers of smoking cannabis and driving needs to be stronger, authors argue.

New study findings show that over 40% of drivers who died in motor vehicle collisions tested positive for **active delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol (THC)** in their system, with average blood levels far exceeding those considered to cause impairment.

The research highlights a significant and persistent public health risk that is unchanged by the legalization of recreational cannabis, the authors said.

The research was presented at the American College of Surgeons (ACS) Clinical Congress 2025 in Chicago, October 4-7.





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