



THE PROS & CONS OF ELECTRIC SPACE HEATERS

If you're wondering if a space heater could be a good choice to help get you through the cold New England winter, consider these pros and cons.

PROS:

Space heaters heat only the area where they're placed, and since almost all of the electricity consumed by a space heater is converted to heat, the units themselves are nearly 100% efficient.

However, the only scenario in which a space heater is truly eco-friendly or energy efficient is when it's used to reduce the amount of energy a central heating system uses. For example, if you work from home, using a space heater can be a good way to keep your office comfortable without heating the unused rooms in the rest of the house.

CONS:

Due to regulations limiting output, a space heater operating at its maximum can heat a room no larger than 150 square feet.

But the biggest "con" of space heaters is, without question, the

risk of fire if not operated properly. According to the National Fire Protection Association, space heaters and heating stoves were responsible for the largest shares of losses in home heating equipment fires from 2018-2022, accounting for nearly half of the fires.

SPACE HEAT SAFELY:

Observing safety practices can greatly reduce the risk of injury and property damage:

- Select a model with built-in safety features such as automatic shutoff when overheating or if tipped over
- Only run the heater when you're in the room with it, and don't leave it on overnight
- Do not connect the heater to an extension cord
- Keep the heater away from flammable objects (three feet minimum)
- Read the instruction manual

To learn more, visit:



[UNITIL.COM/
SPACE-HEATERS](https://www.unitil.com/space-heaters)

Want to Help a Neighbor?

By contributing to a community fund program, you can help people facing energy emergencies. Every cent of your tax-deductible contribution goes directly to assist someone who needs help but has nowhere else to turn. Donate online:

In Massachusetts

Good Neighbor Energy Fund:

[MAGOODNEIGHBOR.ORG](https://www.magoodneighbor.org)

In New Hampshire

Neighbor Helping Neighbor:

[NHNFUND.ORG](https://www.nhnfund.org)



FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS NEED HELP BUT DON'T QUALIFY FOR STATE ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS?

If you are a residential customer having trouble paying your bills, please don't go it alone! These two state assistance programs are sponsored by Unitil and other utility companies, along with the generous donations of many of our customers. The funds are available to help any qualifying family get through difficult times.

IN MASSACHUSETTS: GOOD NEIGHBOR ENERGY FUND

A partnership between utilities and the Salvation Army, the Good Neighbor Energy Fund is available to any Massachusetts resident who, because of temporary financial difficulties, cannot meet a month's energy expense and is not eligible for state or federal energy assistance. To apply, contact your local Salvation Army office at 978-342-3300.



IN NEW HAMPSHIRE: NEIGHBOR HELPING NEIGHBOR

Neighbor Helping Neighbor (NHN) is a non-profit charitable corporation helping utility customers who experience some sort of emergency or financial hardship but are unable to qualify for other government-funded energy assistance programs. To apply, call your local community action agency:



Belknap-Merrimack County CAP: 603-223-0043

Rockingham County CAP: 603-436-3896 or 800-639-3896

Customers in Atkinson, Danville, Newton & Plaistow should contact the Salem, NH, office: 603-435-2500

You can also learn more about state-specific assistance programs by calling 211 or visiting [UNITIL.COM/ASSISTANCE-PROGRAMS](https://www.unitil.com/assistance-programs)

SAFETY FIRST

Avoid Dangerous Gas Leaks With One Simple Upgrade!

According to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, uncoated flexible gas connectors have not been made for more than 25 years, but many are still in use in older appliances.

If you have a gas appliance that is more than 20 years old, it may have an old gas connector made of brass, which could come apart, causing dangerous situations. Flexible gas connectors are corrugated metal tubes used to attach gas appliances to the natural gas pipes in your dwelling. Older flexible connectors made of uncoated brass can weaken or crack over time, which could lead to a dangerous gas leak. Any uncoated brass gas appliance connector should be replaced immediately by a licensed contractor. Follow these tips when managing such connectors:

- Avoid moving gas appliances – stressing connectors can cause them to crack or fail.
- Do not move your natural gas appliances to check the connectors yourself.
- Leave the inspection and replacement of such connectors to a qualified heating contractor, plumber, or appliance repair representative.
- Ensure that connectors are certified by the American Gas Association and manufactured in accordance with the American National Standards Institute.

For more information, visit:

[UNITIL.COM/GAS-CONNECTORS](https://www.unitil.com/gas-connectors)

VISIT THE OUTAGE CENTER!

Prepare for the unexpected, get outage and restoration updates in your area, or find out more about how we restore power.

[UNITIL.COM/OUTAGE-CENTER](https://www.unitil.com/outage-center)



GAS EMERGENCIES ARE SERIOUS. If you suspect a leak or have a gas emergency, leave immediately and from a safe place, call 911 or one of our toll-free hotlines below.

MASSACHUSETTS:	MAINE:	NEW HAMPSHIRE:
1-866-542-3547	1-866-900-4460	1-866-900-4115



Report an electric outage at [UNITIL.COM/REPORT-OUTAGE](https://www.unitil.com/report-outage) or call us toll free at 1-888-301-7700.

Visit the Outage Map online at:
[UNITIL.COM/MAP](https://www.unitil.com/map)

View real-time updates as to current electric outages, customers impacted and percentage of customers affected in a given community.



Follow us on X for real-time outage updates.

[TWITTER.COM/UNITIL](https://twitter.com/unitil)



Like us on Facebook to get useful tips and information.

[FACEBOOK.COM/UNITIL](https://facebook.com/unitil)



General Customer Service Inquiries

CALL US: 1-888-301-7700 (SCAN CODE TO CALL NOW)

You can also contact us online. Fill out our online form and we'll respond to your request as soon as possible. Visit us at: [UNITIL.COM/CONTACT](https://www.unitil.com/contact)

