



You need to be careful with all types of home heating and it's important to be aware of the risks involved with using fixed and portable heating appliances.

Heaters can include:

- fixed electrical appliances
- fixed gas powered appliances
- an open fire
- wood heater/slow combustion heaters
- portable heaters including electrical, gas and kerosene.

Fires caused by heating increase during winter months

Heating safety tips

- ensure heaters are installed, maintained and operated according to manufacturer's instructions
- turn off all heating devices before leaving home or going to sleep
- drying clothes and other items must be kept at least one metre away from all heating
- children must be supervised near all types of heating. Maintain a safe distance between children and heating
- for portable heating appliances choose models that have automatic safety switches that turn the heater off if tipped over
- keep portable electric heaters away from wet areas to avoid the possibility of electric shock.

Open fire safety tips

- always use a fire screen in front of an open fire
- extinguish open fires before leaving home or going to sleep
- ensure ashes are cold before discarding
- chimneys and flues should be cleaned annually
- keep wood and other combustibles at least one metre away from fire
- children must be supervised near open fires. Maintain a safe distance between children and heating
- only burn dry, clean wood
- brick chimneys and gas heaters should be checked before winter to prevent fires and carbon monoxide poisoning.

Carbon monoxide (CO) is an odourless, colourless gas that can be produced by faulty gas heaters, it can be fatal. Visit esv.vic.gov.au

