When needed, portable electric space heaters can help you stay warmer. But it is vital to keep safety in mind. Even though an open flame is not produced with electric models, the heating elements can become hot enough to ignite combustible materials that are too close.

Here are some tips and information regarding the safe use of space heaters:

- The heater must be tested & approved by a nationally recognized laboratory. A “UL” mark means that the model has met stringent safety standards.
- The heater must have an automatic shut-off switch if the unit tips over and falls on its side.
- Use space heaters only as a supplemental source of heat, and only for temporary purposes. Do not leave them on while unattended.
- Keep all potentially combustible materials at least 3 feet away.
- Avoid using space heaters in damp or wet areas to minimize the chance of electric shock accidents.
- Do not use space heaters to dry anything.
- Space heaters with exposed heating elements, such as metal filaments or coils, should not be used.
- Inspect the power cord periodically to ensure that it has not become worn or frayed. Place the cord so that it isn’t a trip hazard, but avoid running it under rugs or carpeting.