

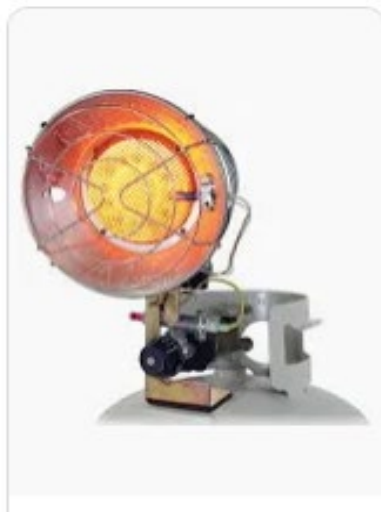


Fire Safety During Winter Months

The best way to prevent a fire is to never leave a space heater running in a room unattended – that way, if anything does go wrong, you can act quickly. If you have kids or pets that could knock a heater over or drape fabric on it, keep a very close eye on its operation.



Electrical space heaters pose no danger of carbon monoxide poisoning, unlike those that burn fuels, such as kerosene & propane. Do not start or leave cars, trucks, or other vehicles running in an enclosed area, such as a garage, even with the outside door open as it can cause a danger to you and others.





Extension Cord Safety Tips

Roughly **3,300 home fires** originate in extension cords each year. Extension cords can overheat and cause fires when used improperly, so **keep these important tips in mind** to protect your home and loved ones.



Never plug an extension cord into **another extension cord**.



Make sure extension cords are **properly rated for their intended use**, indoor or outdoor. Never use an indoor extension cord outdoors.

Extension Cord Designations

S: Designed for General Use

W: Rated for Outdoor Use

J: Standard 300 Voltage Insulation

T: Made from Vinyl Thermoplastic

P: Parallel Wire Construction
(Air Conditioner Cords and Household Extension Cords)

O: Oil-Resistant

E: Made from TPE



Never use three-prong plugs with outlets that only have two slots. Never cut off the ground pin to force a fit, which could lead to electric shock.



Only use extension cords that have been approved by an independent testing laboratory, such as the ones listed above.

Cord Length and Amperage Limits

25 – 50 Feet Extension Cords

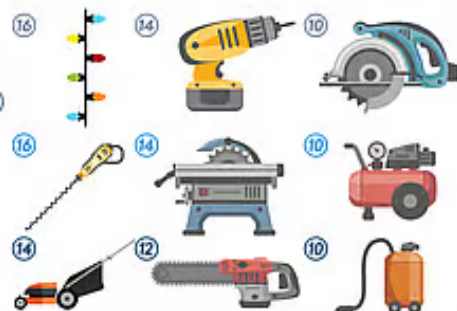
16 Gauge (1–13 Amps)
14 Gauge (14–15 Amps)
12–10 Gauge (16–20 Amps)

100 Feet Extension Cords

16 Gauge (1–10 Amps)
14 Gauge (11–13 Amps)
12 Gauge (14–15 Amps)
10 Gauge (16–20 Amps)

150 Feet Extension Cords

14 Gauge (1–7 Amps)
12 Gauge (8–10 Amps)
10 Gauge (11–15 Amps)



Always use **GFCI protection** when using an extension cord outdoors.



Inspect cords for **damage before use**. Check for cracked or frayed sockets, loose or bare wires, and loose connections. Discard damaged extension cords.

! Extension cords are for **temporary use only**. A heavy reliance on extension cords is an indication that you have **too few outlets** to address your needs. Have **additional outlets installed** where you need them.



The pipes in your home can freeze in cold weather. This can leave you with no water or cause your pipes to burst, leading to expensive property damage. Your local Fire Department recommends that the safest way to thaw frozen water pipes is to obtain the service of a qualified plumber or others qualified in this field.

The following safety tips are recommended to homeowners should they wish to thaw their own pipes. If your pipes freeze:

1. Shut off the water immediately. Don't attempt to thaw the frozen pipes unless the water is shut off. Freezing can often cause unseen cracks in pipes or joints.
2. Apply heat to the frozen pipe by warming the air around it, or by applying heat directly to a pipe.
3. Never use an open flame such as a blow torch to thaw pipes. This will create a fire hazard as well as severe risk of exposure to carbon monoxide.
4. Use a certified electric heat tape on the pipe and wait for the water to thaw.
5. Use an electric hair dryer to blow warm air directly on the suspected frozen area.
6. Apply heat until water pressure is restored. If you are unable to locate the frozen area, or if you cannot thaw the pipe, call a licensed plumber.





Regional District of **Kitimat-Stikine**

Portable generators are useful during winter storms, but if not used safely, they can cause injuries and death.

Use portable generators outdoors in well-ventilated areas away from all doors, windows, and vents. Make sure you have carbon monoxide alarms in your home.

