



Crawfordsville Electric Light & Power

Portable Space Heaters: Keep Warm and Stay Safe

Space heaters can provide extra comfort during cold weather. If not used properly, however, they can also be a safety hazard. Portable heating equipment is the second leading cause of home fires in the United States, according to the National Fire Protection Association. With a few simple precautions, you can stay warm and safe all winter long.

Choosing a space heater

Safety starts at purchase. Select a unit certified for safe operation by UL (Underwriters Laboratories) or another nationally recognized testing organization. Look for heaters with a guard around the heating element. Consider the size of the area you want to heat. A heater that's too small or too large for an area can waste energy without providing the extra comfort you need.

Safe operation

Keep your space heater running safely by following these simple tips:

- Keep children and pets away from space heaters — the surface can get very hot.
- Never leave a space heater running when you're asleep or when you leave the area.
- Locate the heater at least three feet away from bedding, furniture and drapes, or where towels or other fabrics could fall on it and start a fire.
- Don't place heaters in areas where they may become wet — such as a bathroom. Corrosion or damage to heater parts can cause a fire or electric shock.
- Make sure your heater is placed on a level, non-flammable surface — not on rugs or carpets.
- Avoid using extension cords when plugging in space heaters. Don't hide cords under rugs or carpet.
- Never store flammable liquids near a space heater — they can be ignited by an electrical spark.
- Don't use fuel-fired space heaters indoors. Without proper ventilation, they can cause carbon monoxide poisoning.

Maintain your heater in safe working condition. Don't attempt to operate a damaged unit in your home. Follow all manufacturer's guidelines regarding operating and storing your heater.





Is Energy Escaping Through Your Attic?



Your energy budget is something you want to keep in house. If you have a poorly insulated attic, however, those energy dollars are slipping up and away. What can you do? Grab a flashlight, a tape measure and a pair of gloves. Head up to your attic and find ways to keep your energy costs down.

Look at your insulation

Adding attic insulation is one of the most effective ways to reduce heating and cooling costs, but how do you know if you have the right amount? If there's no insulation up there, that's a no brainer. Call a qualified contractor right away.

If you do have insulation, you'll have to find out what type you have and how much. Most attics have batt insulation or loose-fill. Batt insulation is that fuzzy stuff that comes in rolls with brown paper on the back; insulation level is measured in R-value, which should be listed on the brown paper. If you have loose-fill insulation, shove a ruler or tape measure down into the insulation at several places in the attic to measure the depth. Insulation has an R-value of about 3 to 3.5 per inch. So, just multiply the depth of

insulation by three to get the estimated R-value.

Check your insulation R-value against [recommended levels](#) for your climate zone. If you fall short, you're losing energy and money. Adding insulation to your attic is a cost-effective way to save energy and a project you can do yourself.

Sealing in savings

You've got the right level of insulation and it's installed correctly. You're good to go, right? Well, not so fast. All of that extra insulation won't do much good if there's a lot of air escaping through gaps or holes in your attic.

Locate all ceiling fans, recessed lighting fixtures and electrical outlets in the ceiling below your attic. Each of these is a potential source of air leakage. From the attic, pull back the insulation to find the cutouts and seal them with caulk or expandable foam. Check for and seal gaps around plumbing vents, furnace flues and ductwork. Also, seal the attic door or access with weatherstripping. See [Attic Air Sealing Project](#) from ENERGY STAR® for more information and step-by-step instructions.

Get a home energy assessment

Not a do-it-yourselfer? No problem. A qualified home energy professional can help you find cost-saving opportunities in your attic and throughout your home. For more details, see [home energy assessments](#) from the U.S. Department of Energy.

Home Electrical Fires: 8 Safety Tips

When used properly, your home's electrical system is safe and reliable. With care and maintenance, you can keep it that way. Here are some tips to help protect your home and family from an electrical fire.

1. Check electrical cords to make sure they're not running across doorways or under rugs. Replace any damaged or frayed cords immediately.
2. Use extension cords only on a temporary basis.
3. Avoid overloading single outlets with multiple devices. Hire a qualified electrician to install more outlets if needed.
4. Ensure that light bulbs match the recommended wattage for the lamp or fixture. Look for a label indicating the maximum wattage to be used.
5. Install ground-fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) outlets in kitchens, bathrooms, laundry rooms and any other areas that may become wet or





- or damp. GFCIs automatically shut off a circuit when it becomes a shock hazard.
- 6. Consider installing arc-fault circuit interrupters (AFCI) in your home. AFCIs are designed to protect circuit wiring from arcing faults that could start an electrical fire.
- 7. Keep the area around electric meters, circuit breakers and other electrical equipment clear and clean of debris.
- 8. Have your home inspected regularly by a qualified electrician to identify any electrical problems that need to be addressed and to ensure that building wiring meets local code requirements.

With a little extra time and effort, you can help ensure the safety of your family and protect your home from damage.

CEL&P Marks 135 Years with Popper Celebration

Crawfordsville Electric Light & Power will celebrate our 135th Anniversary with a community Popper Celebration on Tuesday, October 7 at 9:00 AM. The event, presented in partnership with the Chamber of Commerce, will recognize CEL&P's long history of serving local homes and businesses while looking ahead to the community's energy future.

The celebration also coincides with Public Power Week, a national observance that highlights the importance of community-owned utilities and their role in providing reliable, affordable, and sustainable energy. CEL&P is proud to be part of this tradition, putting customers and the community first for 135 years.

You are invited to join CEL&P leaders and Chamber representatives for a brief program and morning festivities. It's a chance to reflect on more than a century of reliable service, thank the community for its continued trust, and mark this milestone together.

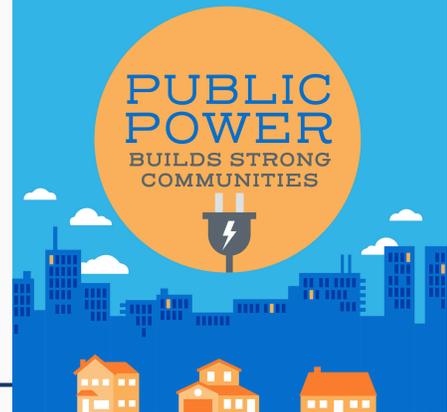
Whether you've been a customer for decades or are new to the area, we'd love to see you there as we "pop" into our next chapter.

Power Outage Information

If you lose power due to wind, rain, or other circumstances, CEL&P crews will work quickly to restore your power.

Report downed power lines by calling CEL&P at 765-362-1900 24 Hours a Day, 7 Days a week or call 911.

Outage information updates will be posted on our Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter pages.



The first full week of October, community-owned utilities in large cities and small towns across the country **celebrate and share the benefits of power**. Check out what these public, not-for-profit energy companies are all about.

TRANSPARENCY
The public has more say in public utility practices and policies than they do with private energy companies.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
Public power companies create local jobs and stimulate the economy.

LOW RATES
According to the U.S. Department of Energy, on average, public power customers benefit from lower electricity rates.

RELIABILITY
Electricity distribution is local and lineworkers are community members, resulting in faster response times for outages.

Celebrate these community-owned and customer-focused energy companies this week by using the hashtag #publicpowerweek on social media.