

CURRENT FLASHES

CEDAR-KNOX PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT

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PORTABLE ELECTRIC HEATERS – Heating up the debate

Seems like we are hearing a lot about different types of portable electric heaters these days. Portable electric heaters are not new, but there are some new claims. Some claim to cut your heating bill by up to 50%. There is a big difference between 50% and up to 50%.

Other ads claim their heaters will cost the same amount to run as your electric coffee maker. Keep in mind how long you run your coffee maker in a day. It is possible the wattage of the coffee maker and the heater are the same, however, most likely you will run the heater for much more time in a day than your coffee maker.

Portable Electric Heaters are 100% efficient, no matter if they are standard units from a discount store or “ruby quartz” and infrared models handled by dealers or advertised in flyers. Portable heaters should always be used as a supplement not as a main source of heat. When buying a unit check the wattage. An example is a 1500 watt heater which uses 1.5 kilowatt hours of electricity per hour of operation. If you run your unit 24 hours a day for one week, using an average residential rate of roughly .07 cents per kwh of electricity, that will add \$17.00 per week or about \$70.00 per month. The savings come when you turn down the thermostat on your furnace, and then use

the space heater in the room you are occupying to make it more comfortable. If your furnace is gas or propane, this will decrease your fuel bill but increase your electric bill.

If you are using a space heater to heat a space that is not normally heated, or to supplement inadequate heating in one room, then your heating cost will rise, no matter what portable heater you buy.

Safety is always our biggest concern, so please read and follow all safety precautions before using any of these heaters.

Safety points

- Locate the heater away from busy areas. Flammable materials such as clothing, furniture and bedding should be at least 3 feet away from heater.
- Extension cords: Avoid plugging the heater into an extension cord.
- Switch off when not in use. Always unplug the heater when leaving the house or going to sleep.
- Child Safety - Children should never be left un-supervised with a portable heater in the room.

Disclaimer - Cedar-Knox PPD does not recommend one brand or type of portable heater over another. This information is provided for educational purposes only.

Cedar-Knox PPD Recognizes Outgoing Directors



Doug Preston and Board President Rich Erwin (left) and Ed Lammers and Rich (right). Both received their Certificate of Achievement, for years of dedicated service to the Cedar-Knox PPD Board. Thanks again to both for their time and efforts.

