

Room heaters

Safe use advice for electric room heaters intended for household and similar use with a rated voltage of no more than 250V for single phase appliances and 480V for other appliances.

This **safe use** advice also applies to appliances not intended for normal household use, and may be useful to laypersons in shops, light industry and on farms and other premises.

This advice is not intended to replace specific manufacturer's information but can be used as a general guide.

This advice does not cater for young children or people who are physically weak.

Examples of these appliances:

- Radiant heaters
- Panel heaters
- Liquid-filled radiators
- Fan heaters
- Convection heaters
- Tubular heaters
- Heaters for greenhouses.

When using the appliances:

- The heater must not be placed immediately below a socket-outlet.
- Heating elements in direct contact with accessible glass panels must not be used if the glass is damaged.
- Do not use this heater with a programmer, timer or any other device that switches the heater on automatically, since a fire risk exists if the heater is covered or positioned incorrectly.
- The fireguard supplied with the heater is intended to prevent direct access to heating elements and must be in place when the heater is in use.
- The fireguard does not give full protection for young children and for people who are physically weak.
- Do not use this heater near a bathtub, a shower or a swimming pool.
- Heaters with visibly glowing radiant heaters should not be used near curtains or other combustible materials.
- Switch off the heater and allow cooling before cleaning the reflector of a visibly glowing radiant heater.
- Heaters mounted at a high level must be at least 1.8 m above the floor.
- Fixed heaters in a bathroom are to be installed so that a person in the bath or shower cannot touch switches and other controls.
- Oil heaters are filled with a precise quantity of special oil. Repairs requiring opening of the oil container are only to be made by the manufacturer or the service agent. Contact them if there is an oil leakage.
- When scrapping the appliance, follow any regulations covering disposal of oil.

You are urged to:

- Use the appliance only for its intended purpose.
- If the appliance is for indoor use only, do not use outdoors.
- Do not immerse the appliance in water unless it is designed for this purpose.
- Keep hands, fingers, feet, toes and hair away from dangerous moving parts, cutting blades and the like.
- Do not use electrical appliances in the rain.
- Make sure you have dry hands when operating an electrical appliance.
- Do not use a damaged appliance.
- An appliance may not be intended for use by children or people with an illness or disability without supervision.
- Young children should not be allowed to play with the appliance.
- Some appliances require special precautions for installation or user maintenance or both.
- The plug must be removed from the socket-outlet before any cleaning or maintenance is done.
- Do not place cord extension sockets or portable power outlet boards where they may be splashed or where moisture may get in.
- Ensure ventilation holes or outlets are not blocked or partially obstructed.
- If a fixed appliance does not have a supply cord and plug or other means for disconnection from the supply, a means for disconnection must be incorporated into the fixed wiring according to the Wiring Rules.
- If the supply cord or plug is damaged:
 - The manufacturer or its service agent or a similarly qualified person must replace the cord to prevent an accident.
 - Appliances with specially prepared cords must be replaced by a special cord or assembly available from the manufacturer or its service agent.
 - Other appliances that have a supply cord that cannot be replaced, should be scrapped.
- The appliance should be maintained in order to ensure a long, useful life and to protect the operator against electric shock or mechanical mishaps.
- A safety switch can enhance electrical safety when using electrical appliances