



Tips for using space heaters

- There are a variety of styles from which to choose when you are shopping for a space heater. Despite what anyone tells you, a space heater can not be made to be more energy-efficient. If you must use one, consider purchasing a less expensive option as long as it can be safely operated. Don't be lured into buying an expensive space heater because it is claimed to be more energy-efficient – it is no more energy-efficient than any other space heater.
- If space heating is your only option, consider only heating the room you are occupying.
- Many of our members still have well water and well houses. It is not uncommon to use a space heater to keep plumbing within the well house from freezing during winter months. Instead of a space heater, consider using a heat bulb or heat tape. Also, ensure your well house is properly insulated. This will help prevent heat from quickly escaping and the heat source within will operate less.
- A properly functioning air or ground source heat pump will heat your home much more efficiently than space heaters.

For questions about space heaters or energy-efficiency and conservation, please call 800-432-9720, and ask for the Member Services department.

Space Heaters

Over the years, there have been a lot of sales pitches for space heaters. Terms like *soft heat*, *even heating*, and of course *energy-efficient* have been used to market space heaters.

What is soft heat? What makes one space heater heat more evenly than another? Most importantly, what makes one space heater more energy-efficient than another one? We don't know the answer to the first two questions. It's probably safe to assume no one does, since both are primarily used for marketing purposes. As far as the third question goes, we do know the answer to that one.

So, is one space heater more energy-efficient than another? In short, the answer is NO. Let's dig a little deeper for a more detailed answer.

All space heaters utilize electric resistance heat. Electricity flows from the power source and through the coils of the heater. Heat is a byproduct of the resistance of the coils. If you don't know what a space heater coil looks like and are trying to imagine it, it is a bigger version of the orange wires you see inside a toaster. There is no way to make these coils more energy-efficient.

How much electricity does a space heater use? Most space heaters use 1,500 Watthours per hour of operation (1.5 kWh/h). Based on the average cost of a residential kWh in 2020, that would be about \$0.15 per hour of operation. On the surface, 15 cents an hour may not sound too expensive. However, if space heaters are your primary heat source, the cost adds up quickly.

$1.5 \text{ kWh} \times \$0.0966 \text{ per kWh} = \$0.1449 \text{ per hour of operation}$

$\$0.1449 \text{ per hour of operation} \times 12 \text{ hours/day} \times 30 \text{ days} =$
 $\$52.16 \text{ per month}$

If space heaters are your primary source of heat, you will probably have more than one placed throughout your home. Also, 12 hours of operation per heater, per day is just an example. The amount of time one operates will vary.



From the frontlines to the power lines CO-OPS CELEBRATE VETERANS

Electric co-ops have long had a special affinity for veterans. Perhaps because they are both so closely aligned in outlook, focusing on service, mission and country. Maybe it's because a disproportionate number of veterans come from rural communities and return to their hometowns following active duty. Or, maybe it's due to the shared work ethic of teamwork, cooperation and a "get it done" attitude. Most likely, it is all of the above.

We are not alone in our efforts to honor and serve veterans on Veterans Day (Nov. 11) and every day. As part of our national network of electric cooperatives, spanning 47 states and covering 75 percent of the nation's landmass, there are

countless programs that our family of co-ops has initiated.

At the national level, we support the "Serve our Co-ops; Serve Our Country" program, a nationwide initiative aimed

at employing and honoring veterans, military service members and their spouses. This program came with a great vision of forming a national coalition with the shared goal of hiring veterans into co-op jobs across rural and suburban America and setting them up for success in their local communities.

From the frontlines to power lines, electric cooperatives are supporting veterans of all ages, ranks and branches of the military.



**America's Cooperatives Working Together
 to Empower Veterans and Military Spouses**