When the weather turns cold, it can bring a chill into our homes. Portable space heaters have become a popular way to supplement central heating or heat one room. If you plan to use portable electric space heaters, make sure to follow these tips and recommendations:

**HEATER CHECKLIST**

- Purchase a heater with the seal of an independent testing laboratory.
- Keep the heater at least 3 feet (1 metre) away from anything that can burn, including people.
- Choose a heater with a thermostat and overheat protection.
- Place the heater on a solid, flat surface.
- Make sure your heater has an auto shut-off to turn the heater off if it tips over.
- Keep space heaters out of the way of foot traffic. Never block an exit.
- Keep children away from the space heater.
- Plug the heater directly into the wall outlet. Never use an extension cord.
- Space heaters should be turned off and unplugged when you leave the room or go to bed.

**Types of electric space heaters**

- **Oil or water-filled radiator**
  Heated oil or water travels through the heater.
- **Fan-forced heater**
  A fan blows warm air over metal coils.
- **Ceramic heater**
  Air is warmed over a ceramic heating element.
- **Infrared heaters**
  Heat is created by infrared bulbs.

**Fact**

Nearly half of all space heater fires involve electric space heaters.