

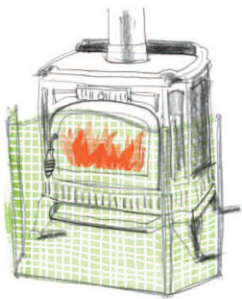
# Home HEATING SAFETY

Space heaters and wood or coal stoves can give you extra warmth during the cold winter months if you **use them safely!**

**BUT** if the heaters are in the wrong place, they can cause serious fires, injuries and deaths.

## Follow these safety practices with your space heaters and wood or coal stoves:

- The heater or stove should be stable, so that it doesn't tip over.
- It should be at least **3 feet** from things that can catch fire, like curtains, small rugs, papers, and furniture.
- If you must use an extension cord, make sure it is a heavy-duty cord. Heavy-duty extension cords are thicker and have three prongs.
- Turn off space heaters while you are out of the room or sleeping.
- Have the inside of your chimney cleaned before winter arrives.
- Put a screen or other barrier around the heater or wood or coal stove.



## Remember:

- Keep your children away from the heater or stove.
- Don't use kerosene heaters inside your house. It's illegal in Massachusetts.
- Don't use your gas oven for heat. Don't use grilling charcoal for heat. Their fumes can poison you and your family, especially while you sleep.
- Make sure you install a carbon monoxide detector in your home to warn you about poisonous fumes.
- There are fuel assistance programs in Massachusetts to help families pay their heating bills. Call your city/town hall to find out about these programs.

For more information on safety, please call (617) 624-5070 (assistance available in other languages)  
TTY (617) 624-5992 or visit our website at: <http://www.state.ma.us/dph/fch/injury/index.htm>.  
Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Injury Prevention and Control Program.