



PROTECTION HITS HOME:

Avoiding the Hazards of Alternative Heating



More than one-third of Americans use fireplaces, wood/pellet stoves, and other fuel-burning devices to heat their homes. Portable space heaters, fireplaces, and chimneys cause thousands of home fires and hundreds of deaths each year. Portable space heaters are a top cause of fire deaths from home heating equipment. Arbella offers these tips to help you stay safe while you keep warm this winter.

GOLDEN RULES OF SAFE HOME HEATING:

- Maintain carbon monoxide and smoke detectors on all levels of your home.
- Never use your gas oven to generate home heat.
- Have your furnace serviced regularly to ensure safety and efficiency.

WOOD/PELLET STOVES AND FIREPLACES

DOs & DON'Ts

- DO use only stoves and fireplaces approved by a reputable testing laboratory, such as Underwriter's Laboratory
- DO follow manufacturer's instructions for installing and maintaining it
- DO have your chimney or wood stove inspected and serviced yearly.
- DO use a metal or glass screen to contain sparks.
- DO keep the damper open on wood stoves until the fire is out and the embers are cold.
- DO keep kindling, paper, and décor away from fireplaces and wood stoves.
- DO burn only seasoned hardwood to reduce creosote accumulation.
- DO NOT use gas or lighter fluid to start a fire in a fireplace or wood stove.

PORTABLE SPACE HEATERS

DOs & DON'Ts

- DO keep space heaters at least 3 feet from any materials that can burn, such as furniture, blankets, curtains, and paper.
- DO choose space heaters that turn off automatically if they tip.
- DO turn off space heaters before going to bed or leaving your home.
- DO NOT use a space heater to dry clothing.
- DO NOT use unvented kerosene heaters inside your home. Doing so is illegal in Massachusetts.

Contact your Arbella agent or visit arbella.com to learn more.

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