

# Safe use of Portable Heaters

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We understand that some tenants use portable heaters to supplement their home heating. While these heaters can be helpful, they must be used safely to avoid the risk of fire or injury. Please read and follow the advice below to keep yourself and your neighbours safe.



## Choose the right heater



- Use only heaters with a UKCA or CE safety mark.
- Choose models with a thermostat and automatic cut-off to prevent overheating.
- Avoid using gas heaters indoors. We would always recommend an oil filled heater wherever possible.
- Never use open flame heaters such as portable paraffin, gas or LPG heaters indoors.

## Using your heater safely



- Keep heaters at least 1 metre away from curtains, furniture, bedding, and clothes.
- Place the heater on a flat, stable, and non-flammable surface.
- Never cover or drape anything over the heater, even to dry clothes.
- Keep children and pets away from the heater at all times.
- Switch off and unplug the heater when not in use or when leaving the room.

## Electrical safety



- Plug heaters directly into a wall socket – do not use extension leads or multi-socket adaptors.
- Regularly check the plug and cable for signs of wear or damage.
- Don't run cables under carpets or rugs – this can cause overheating and fire.

## When not to use a heater



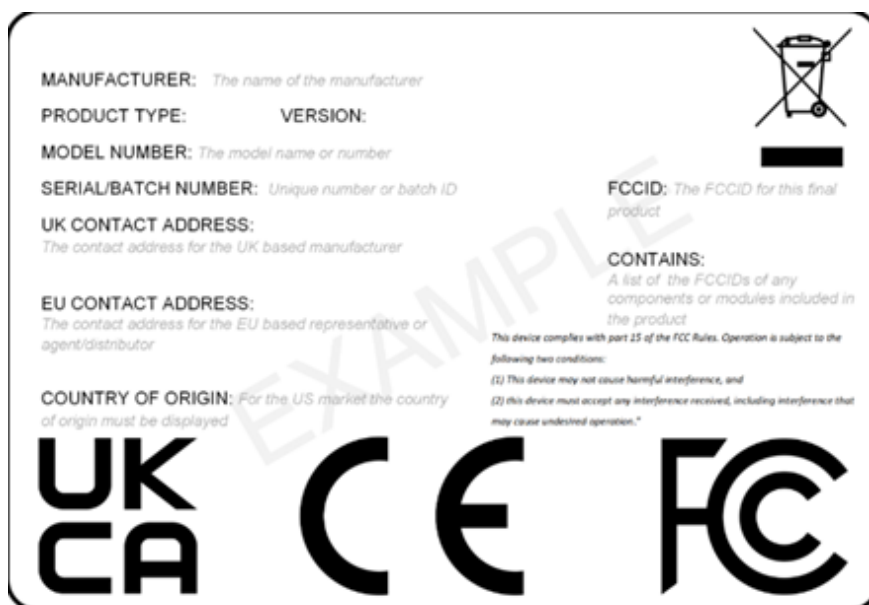
- Do not use a portable heater in the bathroom unless it is specifically designed for bathroom use.

- Do not use heaters while you're asleep.
- Avoid using heaters in escape routes such as hallways or near front doors.

Stay alert. Stay safe.



- If your heater smells unusual, makes strange noises, or trips your power, stop using it immediately.
- Never leave the heater unattended while it's on.
- Make sure your smoke alarms are working – test them weekly.
- The below image is an example of a UKCA safety and CE mark on a product.




Need advice or help?



If you're worried about your heating, need help choosing a safe heater, or want support with your home's energy efficiency, please contact us using the details below.

We're here to help you stay safe and warm.

## Contact us:

 01508 532000

 [info@saffronhousing.co.uk](mailto:info@saffronhousing.co.uk)

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