

# Prevention Tips for Small Appliances

## Small Devices Can Cause Big Problems

Even small devices that are used every day in our homes can cause fires or losses if they are used incorrectly.

Space heaters present the highest fire risk and please note the safety tip sheet for home fire safety. Remember that de-humidifiers and other small electronic devices need to be used properly to reduce the fire risk.



### Key Practices

- ✓ Use all devices properly and never modify the unit.
- ✓ Don't use any unit with a damaged electrical cord or plug.
- ✓ Stop using the unit if it doesn't shut off or work properly.
- ✓ Don't block louvers or grills.
- ✓ Place the appliance in an open area and away from walls for good air flow.
- ✓ Don't pack combustible material around devices to prevent overheating.
- ✓ Keep the units clean including grills, coils, and covers.
- ✓ For de-humidifiers, set the humidistat at a proper level so that the unit does not run too long.

### Key Facts

- ✓ Blocked vents and filters can overheat units.
- ✓ Clogged or dirty coils can overheat.
- ✓ Damaged electrical plugs or cords can overheat and start fires.
- ✓ Malfunctioning devices may run too long or not shut off when needed. For de-humidifiers, this may overheat the unit or fail to work properly.

Check out our [Safety Tips page](#) for more safety information.

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