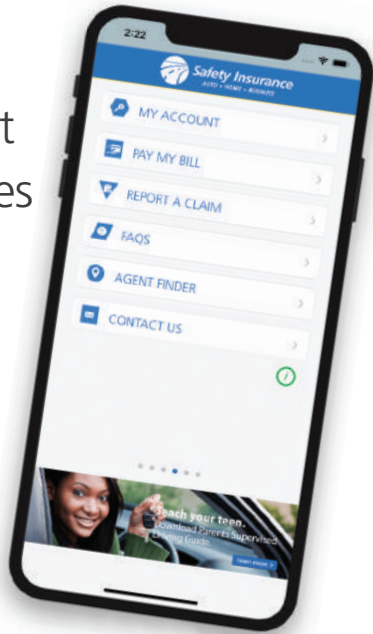


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20 Custom House St., Boston, MA 02110



Supplemental Heating Tips



Safety supports the Independent Agent system

HELPFUL TIPS

Watch for Creosote Build-Up

Creosote is highly combustible. It is black or brown, and can be flaky and tar-like, or shiny and hardened. Signs of creosote can be found if you have a warped damper, cracked or collapsed flue, or cracks in exterior masonry or damaged roofing material.

Inspect all Supplemental Heating Sources Once a Year

A qualified technician should inspect all new installations per the Massachusetts State Building Code. If you did not install the heating source and there is no written documentation of a technical inspection, it is recommended that you hire a qualified technician. When purchasing a new home, keep in mind that not all home inspectors are specialized in supplemental heating sources.

Check Flue Pipes

Flue pipes should be checked for corrosion at least once a year. Solid fuel heating appliances cannot share a common flue with chimney flues used by other solid fuel, fossil fuel or gas fired appliances.

Remove all Flammable Household Items

Drapes, furniture, newspapers and books are a few of many flammable household items that should be kept away from the source of heat.

Store Ashes Properly

All ashes should be cool before storing them in a metal container, and kept outdoors on a cement or brick slab a safe distance away from the home.

Smoke Alarms

Install smoke alarms and carbon monoxide alarms in a central location and outside sleeping areas. Keep a fire extinguisher handy. Test periodically.

PORTABLE & FIXED SPACE HEATERS

Purchase a Tested Heater

Heater should be tested and labeled by a nationally recognized consumer testing company. Look for safety features, such as overheat protection, tip-over safety switches and low-oxygen sensors.

Place on a Level Surface

Heaters should be placed so that they cannot be bumped or knocked over; they should be at least 3' from flammable materials like drapes and furniture.

Avoid Overloading Outlets

Always plug your space heater directly into the wall. Avoid the use of surge protectors or extension cords with your heater.

Stay Near Space Heaters

Never leave space heaters unattended or running while you sleep. Keep space heaters away from water and never use near a sink or in the bathroom.

Kerosene Heaters

The sale and use of unvented kerosene heaters is illegal in Massachusetts. Refuel your kerosene heater outside, not indoors. Only use kerosene heaters in rooms with good ventilation. Always use the correct fuel, specified by the manufacturer, for fuel burning space heaters.

FIREPLACES & WOOD BURNING STOVES

Use a Sturdy Fireplace Screen

Be sure that the fireplace has a sturdy screen to prevent sparks and flying embers.

Start Fires Properly

Fires should be started with clean newspaper and dry kindling. NEVER start with gasoline, kerosene, charcoal starter or propane torch. Do not burn wet or green (unseasoned) logs. Keep lighters and matches, and fireplace tools and accessories, out of the reach of young children.

Check Damper

The damper should be open before lighting a fire and not closed until the fire has died out and the embers are cold.

Build Small Hot Fires

Smoldering fires are not safe or efficient.

Install Stovepipe Thermometers

These thermometers help monitor flue temperatures.

Inspect and Clean Chimney Annually

Chimney fires can be avoided by inspection and cleaning by a chimney sweep.



PELLET STOVES

Choose Products Specific for Pellet Stoves

A PL Vent pipe, labeled as tested to UL 641, is the right choice. Do not use a dryer vent, gas appliance (Type B) vent, PVC (plastic) pipe or a single wall stove pipe. Avoid burning anything except the pellets that are recommended by the manufacturer.

Place and Vent Correctly

Floor protection, electrical requirements and venting layouts are key. Installation should only be performed by a licensed and/or certified professional.

Avoid Burns

Consider putting a guard or gate around your pellet stove to help protect younger children and pets from getting too close to it.

Maintain Your Pellet Stove

Follow the manufacturer's instructions for use and maintenance. Have a professional inspect and clean the stove once a year.