Space Heaters 101

PARIS BPU

Space heaters are a great addition to have around the house, as they can back up the central heating system whenever outside's temperatures are not working in your favor. While they are not meant to replace a central heating system, space heaters are portable and efficient in heating up a single room, and since they don't occupy a lot of space, it's easy for you to store them when they're not in use.

Tips for Maximizing Efficiency

- If you're using a space heater to heat the one or two rooms you use most, turn down your central heating so you don't heat up rooms you aren't using.
- Close doors to rooms that are being heated to avoid heat loss.
- Turn off the heater when not in use or get a space heater with a timer feature.
- Purchase a heater with thermostat settings and use the lowest setting that you find comfortable.
- Select a space heater that is the right size for the space you need to heat; most will have a sizing table on the box.

Calculating the Cost

The first step in determining how much energy your electric space heater uses (and what that might cost) is to find the wattage of your electric heater. This should be printed on the heater itself or in the owner's manual. The wattage tells how much electricity is needed to power your heater.

Most electric heaters use 1,500 watts, but some are slightly less or slightly more. Assuming you've got a 1,500-watt heater, and 1,000 watts equals 1 kilowatt, that means your heater uses 1.5 kilowatts of power.

24 Hours

1.5 KW
x 24 hours
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36 KWH per day
x 30 days

1080 KWH per month
x .10

$108.00 per month

8 Hours

1.5 KW
x 8 hours
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12 KWH per day
x 30 days
---
360 KWH per month
x .10

$36.00 per month

4 Hours

1.5 KW
x 4 hours
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6 KWH per day
x 30 days
---
180 KWH per month
x .10

$18.00 per month