Space Heater Safety & Sizing Cheat Sheet

Five heaters compared, what one hour really costs, and the rules that matter — tape it inside the utility closet. From vitaldwelling.com — "5 Best Space Heaters for New Homeowners (2026)".

1 — THE FIVE HEATERS, SIDE BY SIDE

	CT18950 ★	VORNADO MVH	EW7707CM	DREO HSH004	LASKO 754201
Type	Ceramic tower	Fan-forced vortex	Oil-filled radiator	PTC ceramic, compact	Ceramic, tabletop
Watts	1,500 (3 settings)	1,500 (3 settings)	1,500	1,500	1,500 (2 speeds)
Best at	Living room / bedroom, all-round	Even heat, no hot spot	Silent, steady bedroom heat	Fast heat, office / bedroom	Desk / small room, budget
Thermostat	Digital, 60-90F	Dial, 7 settings	Dial + ComforTemp button	Digital, 41-95F	Manual dial
Oscillation	120 deg	No (vortex instead)	No	70 deg	No
Tip-over + overheat	Both	Both	Overheat / thermal cut-off*	Both	Both
Noise	Fan, maker <40 dB claim	Fan, quiet class	Silent (no fan)	Fan, quiet class	Fan
Warranty	3 yr	5 yr	3 yr	12 mo, 30 mo registered	3 yr class
Price	Check product page	~$80-100 class	~$130 class	Check product page	~$30 class

*De'Longhi EW7707CM: a tip-over switch is not claimed for this model — see the full guide.

2 — WHAT ONE HOUR REALLY COSTS (1,500 W at full power, ~17c per kWh)

RUNNING	ENERGY	AT ~17c/kWh
1 hour	1.5 kWh	About 26 cents — every plug-in heater at 1,500 W costs the same per hour; delivery is what differs
8-hour day	12 kWh	About $2.04 — the realistic evening-and-workday figure
24 hours straight	36 kWh	About $6.12 a day — which is why the safety rule (off when you leave, off when you sleep) is also the money rule
Month of 8-hour days	360 kWh	About $61 — flat-out worst case; a thermostat that cycles cuts the real figure, often well under

Sizing: 10 W per sq ft — 100 sq ft needs ~1,000 W; 150 sq ft takes the full 1,500 W. Bigger or open-plan?

Use whole-room circulation or a second zone — there is no bigger plug-in heater. Your rate: watts / 1,000 x hours x your price per kWh.

3 — THE SAFETY CHECKLIST (NFPA / USFA / CPSC rules)

RULE	WHAT IT MEANS
3-FOOT RULE	Anything that can burn — bedding, curtains, furniture, clothing, paper — stays at least 3 feet away, in every direction. Keep a 3-foot kid-and-pet-free zone too.
DIRECT TO WALL	Plug straight into the wall outlet. Never an extension cord, never a power strip — a heater draws 12.5 amps continuously. If the plug or outlet feels hot, stop and call an electrician.
FLAT AND LEVEL	Hard, level floor, out of foot traffic, never blocking an exit. Cord never under a rug or pinched in a doorway.
OFF MEANS OFF	Off when you leave the room, off when you sleep — even with every safety feature fitted. A timer is a convenience for waking hours, not permission to run unattended.
BUY THE CHECKLIST	A seal from a recognised lab (UL, ETL or CSA), a thermostat, overheat protection and an automatic tip-over shut-off — verified on the exact model number, never assumed from the brand.
EVERY SEASON	Vacuum dust from the grilles, inspect the cord and plug, check your model against recalls (SaferProducts.gov), and test smoke alarms monthly.

Full guide with picks, trade-offs, and links: vitaldwelling.com/best-space-heaters/