

## Be Wary of Heaters that Claim to save Money

Many electric space heaters advertise that they can slash your electric bill, but what they don't advertise is that they can also cause that bill to increase significantly.

Whether it's a standard electric space heater you see at Wal-Mart or a "ruby quartz" or "infrared" model advertised in a newspaper flyer, the thing you need to be concerned about is how much power the unit consumes. This is most commonly given in watts. If you can't find this information on the package, be sure to ask the retailer before making a purchase.

Many electric space heaters are rated at 1,500 watts. This rating is how much power the space heater uses. You are billed for each kilowatt hour (kWh) of electricity you use. A thousand watts is equal to one kilowatt, so 1,500 watts is equal to 1.5 kilowatts

This means for each hour the space heater is running it consumes 1.5 kWh of electricity, which costs about 16 cents. Doesn't sound like much, does it? But running that heater nonstop is a surefire way to increase your electric bill.

If you ran one 1,500 watt space heater for 24-hours a day for a single month it would cost about \$118. That's on top of your normal bill.

So where are the savings that are often touted on such items?

An electric space heater can save money, but only if you reduce the running time of your furnace or other primary heating system.

A space heater could reduce your electric bill, for instance, if you lowered the thermostat on your electric furnace from 72 degrees Fahrenheit to 66 degrees Fahrenheit and used the space heater to heat a single occupied room up to a comfortable temperature.

If, however, you're using the space heater to heat an area normally not heated such as an enclosed desk, then the space heater is simply an additional cost.

Also, keep in mind that if you're using an electric space heater to supplement a propane furnace, then you may see a drop in the amount of propane you use, but your electric bill will still increase.

Electric space heaters can provide an effective and simple means of heating the cold, unconditioned tool shed, bedroom or other relatively small space, but they should never be allowed to run 24-hours a day and you should always keep in mind the cost of operating such a piece of equipment.

Space Heater Cost		
Cost based on LCEC's rate of \$0.107/kWh		
Heat Setting (watts)	Cost per week	Cost per month
600	\$10.79	\$46.22
750	\$13.48	\$57.78
900	\$16.18	\$69.34
1000	\$17.98	\$77.04
1250	\$22.47	\$96.30
1350	\$24.27	\$104.00
1500	\$26.96	\$115.56

Electric Space Heater Consumption Chart								
Heat Setting (watts)	Daily Hours of Operation							
	1	2	4	6	8	10	12	24
600	\$0.064	\$0.128	\$0.257	\$0.385	\$0.514	\$0.642	\$0.770	\$1.541
750	\$0.080	\$0.161	\$0.321	\$0.482	\$0.642	\$0.803	\$0.963	\$1.926
900	\$0.096	\$0.193	\$0.385	\$0.578	\$0.770	\$0.963	\$1.156	\$2.311
1000	\$0.107	\$0.214	\$0.428	\$0.642	\$0.856	\$1.070	\$1.284	\$2.568
1250	\$0.134	\$0.268	\$0.535	\$0.803	\$1.070	\$1.338	\$1.605	\$3.210
1350	\$0.144	\$0.289	\$0.578	\$0.867	\$1.156	\$1.445	\$1.733	\$3.467
1500	\$0.161	\$0.321	\$0.642	\$0.963	\$1.284	\$1.605	\$1.926	\$3.852

Note: If the heater also has a fan, the actual cost may increase over the amounts shown.