

Miracle Space Heaters No Better than Cheaper Plug Ins

A typical question we receive at Crow Wing Power: "I have seen full page ads advertising space heaters and electric fireplaces for around \$350-\$400. Will these portable space heaters really save 50% on energy bills?"



Infra-Red Space heaters like all electric heaters are nearly 100% efficient, and this has been true for decades. The new wonder space heaters being advertised lately are no more efficient than any other electric heater. 1500 watt electric heaters put out enough to heat a 200-300 sq. ft. room and cost about 12 cents per hour to operate. This is true of any 1,500 watt electric heater.

If you read the fine print of the ads for the 'miracle' heaters, it usually states that the heater saves you 50% on your heating bill if you turn off your central heating system or lower your thermostat to 50 degrees and only heat the one room at a time.

You can get the same heat from a lightweight 1,500 watt portable space heater with a fan for under \$100 at your local hardware store. Also, some of the ads we've seen tell you to totally shut off your central heating system. Lowering your central heating system too far or shutting it off totally could cause freeze-up of water pipes.

Finally, be safe when using a space heater. Electric space heaters cause an average of 3,000 fires each year in the U.S often because of improper use, according to the National Fire Protection Association.

Crow Wing Power energy advisors can help you lower energy costs. We are here to help you make sense of energy-savings claims and also help you find real ways to save on your electric bill. Call us at 829-2827 or 1-800-648-9401 if you have any questions.