

## Safety tips when heating your home

- When purchasing a portable heater, choose models that have automatic safety switches that turn the heater off if tipped over
- Keep portable electric heaters away from curtains, bedding, wet areas and areas of heavy traffic
- Always turn off your heater when going to bed or leaving the house.

## Around the home

- When using your clothes dryer, ensure that each load goes through a full cycle, giving the dryer an opportunity to cool down
- Clean the lint filter of your clothes dryer after every load
- Never position clothes, newspapers, kindling and other flammable materials in front of heaters
- Don't overload power points and switch off appliances when not in use
- Never run extension cords under carpets or rugs - localised heating may cause a short circuit that could result in fire.



## In the kitchen

- Have a fire extinguisher and a fire blanket located in the kitchen near the entrance
- Never leave cooking unattended
- Curtains, tea towels, oven mitts and any flammable items should be kept well away from the cooking area
- If cooking oil catches fire, put the lid on the pan or use a fire blanket to smother the fire, then turn off the burner. Do not attempt to carry the pan outside
- Never throw water on burning oil as it will spread the fire and can splash back causing burns
- Keep the stove clean and clear of grease.



## Electric blankets

- Always read and follow the manufacturer's instructions
- Never use an electric blanket with a water bed
- Never fold electric blanket for storage as it may damage your blanket - leave it on the bed
- Make sure your electric blanket is laid flat and tied firmly to the bed
- Never go to bed with your electric blanket on
- Always switch it off before going to bed or leaving the house
- Placing heavy objects on your electric blanket can damage the wiring in the blanket and cause a fire
- Always check electric blankets for any damage or frayed cord.

## For more information

Essential Energy's Public Safety team is available to facilitate Electrical Awareness sessions and discuss any questions relating to electrical safety.

For more information on electrical safety please call Essential Energy:

General enquiries 13 23 91

Power outages 13 20 80

Follow us



or visit [essentialenergy.com.au/safety](http://essentialenergy.com.au/safety)

### SAFETY FIRST:

- Have your winter appliances such as heaters and electric blankets checked for any damage by a licensed electrician
- Ensure smoke alarms are installed and are in good working order
- Never throw water on an electrical fire as you could be electrocuted
- Plan and practice a home escape plan to ensure that everyone knows what to do in the event of a fire
- Ensure your home is fitted with a Residual Current Device
- Educate children and other household members of the importance of electrical safety.

*Be safe, because they need you*

