Cooking Safety

- If you leave stovetop cooking unattended, you're asking for a fire, especially when hot oil or frying is involved.
- If you have a stovetop grease fire, turn off the burner and cover the pan with a lid to cut off oxygen to the fire. Let the pan cool before removing the lid. Never try to take a burning pan to the sink and NEVER use water on a grease fire. Use a fire extinguisher only if you know how; if you stand too close, you'll only spread the flaming grease all over the kitchen.
- For an oven fire, turn off the oven and keep the oven door closed until the fire is out and the oven cools.
- Never leave the oven door open to heat the room. The oven can overheat and cause a fire.

Wood Stoves and Fireplaces

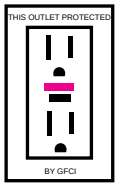
- Have your chimney and fireplace cleaned and inspected yearly for creosote build-up, cracks, crumbling bricks or mortar and any obstructions. This is best done by a professional chimney sweep.
- Burn only dry, well seasoned hardwood to minimize creosote. Don't burn trash.
- Place ashes outdoors in a covered metal container at least three feet away from anything that burns. Don't set the container on a wood porch floor or any other combustible surface.
- Always use a fireplace screen made of sturdy metal or heat-tempered glass to prevent sparks from escaping. If you have children, use a child-guard screen as a barrier for your wood stove.

Space Heaters Need Space

- Keep at least 36 inches of empty space between the heater and everything else, like furniture, curtains, papers and people.
- Check the cord on any portable electric heater. If the cord gets hot, or is frayed or cracked, have the heater serviced.
- Never use extension cords with portable electric heaters.
- Turn off portable heaters when family members leave the house or are sleeping.
- An adult should always be present when a space heater is used around children.
- Make sure your portable electric heater is UL approved and has a temperature control and tip-over shut off protection.

Electrical Safety

- Overloaded outlets with multiple outlets or extension cords cause fires.
- Buy UL listed extension cords. Make sure the cord is the proper length for the job and designed to handle the current or wattage of the products being used.
- Don't cut or splice cords for any reason. A splice is a cord's weakest point; using electrical tape doesn't make a splice safe.
- Electrical cords should never be run under rugs or bundled up to take up excess. This can cause the cord to overheat.
- Properly cover unused outlets to prevent accidental shock.



- Install ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCI's) to protect all outside outlets and anywhere else water is present, such as outlets in bathrooms and near kitchen sinks.

Kerosene Heaters

In New York State, unvented portable kerosene heaters may only be used:

- in one- and two-family homes; or
- temporarily, in construction or demolition projects.

Remember:

- Follow manufacturer's instructions for operation and refueling.
- Always provide adequate ventilation.
- Never refuel a kerosene heater when it is still hot.
- Always refuel a kerosene heater outdoors away from the house, never on a porch or in a garage.

THE LEADING CAUSE OF KEROSENE HEATER FIRES IS UNSAFE REFUELING.

Home Fire Safety Tips