



ARE PORTABLE SPACE HEATERS EFFICIENT FOR MY HOME?

Small space heaters are meant to do exactly as their name says: heat a small space. But unfortunately, many people use portable space heaters to heat their entire home, which can really take a toll on your energy bills. The truth is, whether you should use space heaters really depends on your home's efficiency and energy needs.

If you're using a space heater to compensate for problems in your home, like inadequate insulation, drafty windows and exterior doors, or an inefficient heating system, space heaters are not a practical solution. Your best bet is to improve the overall efficiency of your home. If you're on a tight budget, caulking and weather stripping around windows and exterior doors is a low-cost, easy way to save energy. Depending on the size of your home, adding insulation can be a great next step. Loose fill insulation typically costs \$1 to \$1.50 per square foot. Taking these proactive energy-saving measures rather than relying on space heaters for supplemental warmth can reduce your heating and cooling bills for years to come.

Perhaps your home is energy efficient but you're cold-natured and want a specific room to be cozier than the rest. In this case, a space heater may work for your needs. A good comparison is ceiling fans; we use ceiling fans in the summer to cool people, not rooms. A space heater can be used in a similar way during winter months. Only use a space heater in small spaces that you're occupying and, if possible, try

to shut off other rooms to contain the warmth provided by the space heater. If you decide to use a space heater to heat a small area in your home, make sure the heater is properly sized for the space; most heaters include a general sizing table.

A word about safety: the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission estimates more than 25,000 residential fires are associated with the use of space heaters every year, resulting in more than 300 deaths. If you must use a space heater, purchase a newer model that includes the most current safety features and make sure it carries the Underwriter's Laboratory (UL) label. Choose a thermostatically controlled heater to avoid energy waste and overheating, and place the heater on a level surface away from foot traffic when in use. Always keep children and pets away from space heaters.

Consider alternative ways to stay warm like extra layers of clothing or UL-approved electric blankets. If you have hardwood or tile floors, lay down area rugs to provide additional insulation (and appeal!) and maintain warmth.

We know it's cold out there, but remember in addition to safety concerns, space heaters can greatly increase your energy bills if used improperly.

CEO's Message



CEO, Jeff Simpson

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SWRE *Power Source* is published monthly for distribution to members of Southwest Rural Electric Association.

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COOPERATION POWERS YOU

// When your power goes out, your first response is probably to alert Southwest Rural Electric. After all, SWRE is the name that appears on your electric bill. We deliver power to your home, and when there's an issue with that power, it's typically our employees who are tasked with getting your lights back on.

But that's just a small part of the vast infrastructure required to light up your home. Your local co-op builds and maintains the lines and equipment that deliver power, but we don't generate electricity. That's the job of our generation and transmission operator.

G&Ts are wholesale power suppliers that produce electricity directly or buy it in bulk from other companies, then dispatch that power over high-voltage transmission lines to local distribution cooperatives like ours.

We get our electricity from Western Farmers Electric Cooperative (WFEC), which generates its own electricity and purchases power from other providers.

And we aren't the only co-op who gets power from WFEC. By joining forces with other distribution cooperatives through the G&T, we reduce our individual costs.

WFEC's diverse energy mix combined with the long-term nature of our power purchase agreements help

maintain reliability and price stability. That said, we can't control every aspect of our power costs. Fuel supply fluctuations, extreme weather and unexpected events can cause the cost of power to surge.

When power costs increase, WFEC passes those costs along to its customers. SWRE covers those costs through a component on your bill that adjusts to reflect changes in the price of electricity. We collect only the amount needed to cover the power costs, and if the market cost of power drops, so does your bill.

SWRE doesn't mark up the cost of power to turn a profit. Rather, any revenue we receive in excess of our expenses is called margins. As a member-owned electric cooperative, we allocate those margins each year to you—the members—as capital credits and eventually return that money to you when it becomes financially feasible.

Capital credits are an integral part of Members' Economic Participation, one of the seven principles that guide all co-ops and allow us to deliver on the promise of safe, reliable and affordable electricity.

People—not profits—that's the co-op way. //

Jeff Simpson
CEO

ENERGY CAMP ESSAY CONTEST OPENS FOR 8TH GRADE STUDENTS

**ALTUS | BLAIR | CHILLICOTHE | CROWELL | DAVIDSON | ELECTRA | FREDERICK
HARROLD | NAVAJO | NORTHSIDE | SNYDER | TIPTON | VERNON**

Applications for the Energy Camp Essay Contest are open for 8th grade students who attend school or live in our service area.

It's easy to apply! Just write a 350-500 word essay on a topic we provide, then submit the essay and a parent-signed entry form to SWRE by **March 1, 2022**. The essay topic and contest rules can be found at [SWRE.com/Energy-Camp](https://www.swre.com/Energy-Camp).

Eight finalists will be awarded a \$50 cash prize. The top two essay authors (one from Oklahoma and one from Texas) will be awarded a sponsored trip to Energy Camp this summer!*

* In the event that Energy Camp is cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic, alternate prizes will be awarded to the authors of the top two essays.



YOUTH POWER ENERGY CAMP CANYON CAMP IN HINTON, OK MAY 31 - JUNE 3

Spend the day as a linemen (ride in a bucket truck, learn to climb a pole, etc.)

Build leadership skills

Participate in a career fair

Check out new electric tech (drones, cars, robots, oh my!)

Enjoy a dance party

Make a ton of new friends!

Learn about electrical safety and cooperatives

UNCLAIMED CAPITAL CREDIT SEARCH TOOL AVAILABLE

SWRE recently retired over \$301,000 in capital credits for the remaining fiscal year of 1979, the full fiscal years of 1980, 1983, 1987, and a portion of 1988.

Visit our website at [SWRE.com/Capital-Credits](https://www.swre.com/Capital-Credits) to see if your membership made the list. If your membership is listed and you have not received a capital credit check, give us a call at 1-800-256-7973 to update your contact information.

TRACK YOUR ENERGY USE WITH THE SMARTHUB APP

It's not a bad idea to compare your energy use from year to year. It's a good way to spot differences that might be related to your family's lifestyle and habits—and to get those under control before your bill skyrockets.

Did you know you can track your energy usage in our SmartHub app and web portal? Download the free SmartHub app today and follow the prompts to enroll your account!

Trading Post

For Sale: King-size pillow top mattress and foundation. Legacy Aloe Vera brand. Pristine condition. Includes two new king-size pillows and one set of like-new king sheets. Asking \$500 or best offer. Also, one semi-circular TV table with opaque glass and mahogany wood. Asking \$25. Call (580) 569-4550.

ISO: Looking for old advertising signs and older gas pumps. Call (580) 318-2850.

For Sale: Doctor's Buggy in excellent condition. Fully refurbished upholstery, single horse shaft, rubber on wooden wheels. Buggy only (no harness or horse available). Located 8 miles northeast of Crowell, TX. Asking \$1,700 or best offer. Call (940) 655-3320 and leave a message.

FREE classified non-commercial ad submissions are available for SWRE members only. Submissions must include the account holder's name and account number to be eligible. Ads are also posted on SWRE.com.

Send your ad to the marketing department by mail, e-mail or phone!

MAIL: P.O. Box 310, Tipton, OK 73570

E-MAIL: marketing@swre.com

PHONE: 1-800-256-7973



CHEESY PARTY BURGERS SERVING SIZE: 12

INGREDIENTS:

1lb lean ground beef	3-4 cloves garlic, minced	<u>FOR GLAZE</u>
1t salt	1 (10-oz) can Ro-Tel Diced	½ C (8T) butter
1t pepper	Tomatoes and Green Chiles,	2T Brown sugar
1t cumin	drained	1T Worcestershire sauce
1t mustard powder	12 slices cheddar cheese	1T mustard
½t smoked paprika	12 dinner rolls	1T sesame seeds
2C diced onion (about 1 whole onion)		

DIRECTIONS:

1. Preheat oven to 350° F. Coat 9×13 baking dish with non-stick cooking spray.
2. Place a large skillet on the stovetop over high heat. When the pan is very hot, add the beef and season with salt, pepper, cumin, mustard powder, and paprika. Add the onion and garlic, and cook, stirring occasionally, until beef is browned and onions are golden. Stir in drained tomatoes until well combined.
3. Place bottom half of buns in prepared pan. Top with beef & sliced cheese. Finish off with the top half of the bun.
4. Mix all the ingredients for the glaze in a saucepan over medium heat until melted, smooth and combined. Pour over the buns.
5. Bake at 350° F for 25 minutes.

Source: This recipe would be a great addition to your Super Bowl Party! You can find the recipe and notes at <https://www.kevinandamanda.com/cheesy-party-burgers-aka-diamond-burgers/>.

SWRE

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