



GUARDS AND SCREENS FOR HEATERS AND OPEN FIRES

If you have the need for a room heater when young children are present, consider their safety. Many children are burned on heaters and open fires. Flame and contact burns can be serious, resulting in permanent scarring and disability.

Avoid overheating bedrooms for babies and very young children, as this may contribute to the risk of SIDS (sudden infant death syndrome), see their website www.sidsandkids.org

When shopping for a heater you need to look for these specific features:

Thermostat- This maintains a desired average room temperature and should have a control that is easy to read and set. A cover over the dials helps to restrict small hands from access.

Fan- This usually allows for much quicker and more even heat distribution. The fan can then be switched off leaving the heater's thermostat to maintain the desired room temperature.

Stability- The heater should be stable enough not to tip over when tilted to an angle of 15 degrees.

The above features may make your heater safer than others. But your open fire, pot bellied stove, gas or electric heater should also be enclosed by a guard while in use.

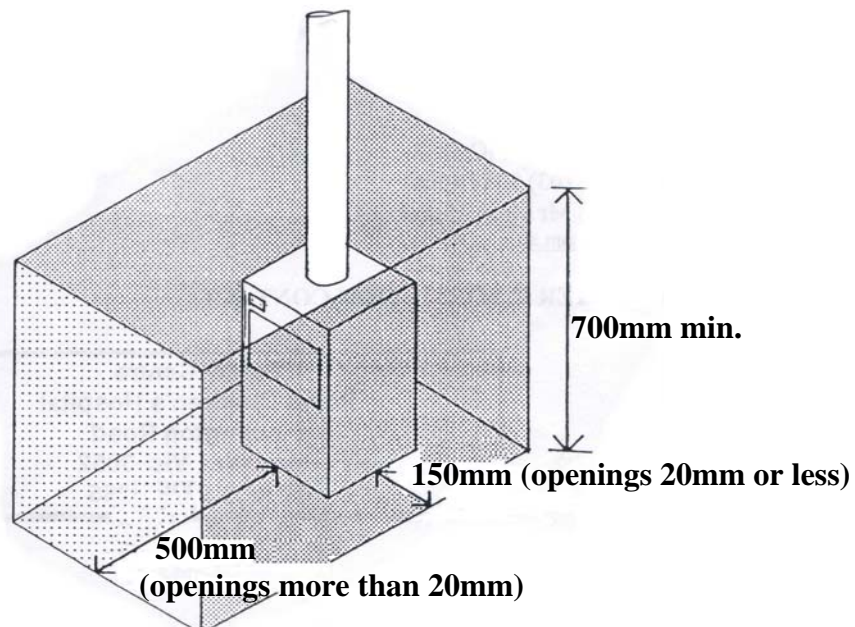
A properly fixed guard that is firmly attached to the wall will:

- Prevent contact with flames and hot surfaces including flues
- Prevent contact with clothing which could ignite and
- Prevent children displacing or removing the guard

A GOOD TEST TO DETERMINE IF YOUR HEATER NEEDS A GUARD IS TO CAREFULLY ATTEMPT TO PLACE YOUR HAND ON THE SURFACE OF THE HEATER. IF THE SURFACE IS SO HOT THAT YOU CANNOT LEAVE YOUR HAND THERE FOR 10 SECONDS, THE HEATER NEEDS A GUARD TO PREVENT CONTACT BURNS TO YOUNG CHILDREN.

Guards should be about 700mm high. If the openings in the mesh of the screen are 20mm or smaller, the guard should be placed at least 150mm clear of any hot surface.

If the openings are larger, the guard should be 500mm clear of hot surfaces to prevent children from putting hands or objects towards the hot surface.



For a comprehensive listing of fire screens and guards in your local area please refer to the Yellow Pages under FIRESCREENS in the fast find index - See Fireplaces and Accessories.

GUARDS FOR GAS WALL HEATERS

A. JONES & CO. PTY LTD
21 Holloway Drive,
Bayswater 3153
Tel: 9761-2581

SCREENS FOR OPEN FIRES

FLECKHAMMER'S FIRESIDE ACCESSORIES
240 Wandin Creek Rd
Wandin East 3139
Tel: (03) 59643556
www.foxall.com.au/fireside

GUARDS FOR POT BELLIED STOVES AND WOOD-BURNING HEATERS

CASTWORKS
8 Roosevelt Street
COBURG NORTH VIC 3058
Tel: (03) 9354 4666
www.castworks.com.au

INFORMATION AND FACTSHEETS ON YOUR HEATING OPTIONS

www.choice.com.au

Please contact the Safety Centre for more advice on the different types of guards.

**Safety Centre
The Royal Children's Hospital
Flemington Road
Parkville Vic 3052
☎ (03) 9345 5085
www.rch.org.au/safetycentre**