

1.) **WARNING!!** Before removing grill, turn the electrical power off at the electrical panel board (circuit breaker or fuse box). Lock or tag the panel board door to prevent someone from accidentally turning the power on while you are working on the heater. Failure to do so could result in serious electrical shock, burns, or possible death.

2.) Turn the heater thermostat all the way up and wait approximately 30 seconds (120 seconds for some electronic thermostats). If the heater turns on, you have turned off the wrong circuit breaker at the electrical panel board.

3.) If heater does not turn on, proceed with next step.

4.) Remove screws and take off grill.

5.) Wash grill with hot soapy water and dry immediately.

6.) While holding fan (to avoid damage or bending), use a hair dryer or vacuum on blow cycle to blow debris through the top element (Do not touch element).

7.) Vacuum fan area without touching the elements.

8.) Replace grill and secure with screws.

9.) Turn thermostat to desired setting.

10.) Turn power back on at the electrical panel board.

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## THE HOME INSPECTORS TIP SHEET

Expert advice on homeowner's questions

# FAN FORCED ELECTRIC HEATERS

These types of heaters require  
regular special maintenance

There are some models that have  
been singled out in a lawsuit

See if yours are on the list here.

**See tips and videos**

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Safety - Maintenance - Repair

## Fan Forced Electric Heaters

Are inexpensive and safe\* heat sources. They have an advantage over central furnaces since you usually can control each room separately making them more efficient when not heating the entire home.

These also have the advantage of only covering a small portion of the wall, unlike traditional baseboard electric heat. This makes placing furniture much easier. They also have over temperature shutoffs, making them safer than baseboards.

These types of heaters have high temperature heating elements that are capable of igniting and ejecting lint and dust. Regular maintenance is key to their safe operation.

*Always turn off the power* at the panel or fuse box before removing the cover. Some heaters, even with the thermostat turned off will have current running to it and are an electrocution hazard.

One brand of these heaters is Cadet. This is an excerpt from the manual of one of these heaters. While it may not be the exact model you have, this is the procedure for other similar heaters from Cadet, Encore or King.



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\*From 1978 - 1999 Cadet Manufacturing made several types of dangerous heaters according to the Consumer Product Safety Commission.

*"To date, the CPSC staff has received information alleging at least 264 instances of electrical fire or malfunction involving the Heaters."*

The models in question had a single over-temperature thermostat to shut off the power in case of a malfunction. These thermostats were not reliable enough, and started house fires. There was an investigation and lawsuit, and Cadet redesigned these heaters. They now have dual over-temperature protection and are considered very safe. The models in question are:

## FW and RW

FW-051, FW-101, FW-122, FW-202, and FW-751 from 1978 to 1987



## FX and RX



FX-051, FX-052, FX-071, FX-072, FX-101, FX-102, FX-122, FX-151, FX-152, FX-202, and FX-242  
RX-072, RX-101, RX-102, RX-151, RX-152, RX-202,

and RX-242 from 1985 to 1994

## LX and RLX

LX-242, LX-302, LX-402, and LX-482),  
RLX-302, RLX-402, and RLX-482) from 1985 to 1994



## TK and RK



TK-051, TK-071, TK-072, TK-101, TK-102, TK-151, and TK-152  
RK-101 and RK-102 from 1984 to 1998

## ZA, RA, Z and ZC

ZA-051, ZA-052, ZA-071, ZA-072, ZA-101, ZA-102, ZA-122, ZA-151, ZA-152, ZA-202, and ZA-242 From 1985 to 1999



RA-101, RA-102, RA-151, RA-152, and RA-202 From 1985 to 1994

Z-072, Z-101, Z-102, Z-151, Z-152, Z-202, and Z-208  
ZC-072, ZC-101, ZC-102, ZC-151, ZC-152, ZC-202, and ZC-208 From 1993 to 1999

*If you have any of the listed models above, please replace them ASAP!*