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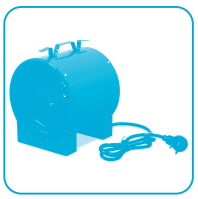
Forced air Heater

The rules and procedures in force where people are at work may require the person responsible for this equipment to carry out a specific risk assessment.

It is important to read this entire leaflet BEFORE using the Forced Air Heater



1. Plan the use of the heater so that it can always be used safely. Do not leave it unattended if there is any risk of fire or burns to persons.
2. Propane gas is highly flammable and must always be used with great care. Cylinders must not be stored in occupied domestic premises.
3. Electricity can be hazardous and must always be used with great care.
4. The heater is designed to provide a flow of heated air for general heating of warehouses, factories and other large open spaces.
5. The heater must not be used where there is a fire risk from combustible materials or flammable liquids or gases. Ensure there is no paper or other light, flammable materials that can get drawn towards the heater by the air flow.
6. Heated air and direct radiant heat from the heater can damage nearby objects as well as presenting a fire risk. Ensure there are no object near enough to the heater to get hot.
7. The heater must not be lit, moved or adjusted and the gas cylinder must not be changed by minors or by anyone under the influence of durgs or alcohol.
8. The heater is designed for operation by an able bodied adult. Anyone with either a temporary of permanent disability should seek expert medical advice before using the machine.
9. A residual current device (rcd) will be required for 230v heaters.

PROPANE GAS SAFETY

1. Keep gas cylinders upright at all times - whether in use, in store or being moved.
2. Propane gas cylinders should not be stored inside a building, even when they appear to be empty.

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LIGHTING THE HEATER (...continued)

6. After about 30 seconds, when the safety cut-out device has heated up, the pilot valve button can be released.
7. If the burner fhas not lit, wait for 1 minute before trying again from step 4 above.

STOPPING THE HEATER

1. Turn the handwheel on the gas cylinder valve clockwise to the OFF position.
2. Allow the heater to run on fan only for a few minutes until it has cooled down.
3. Switch the fan off and unplug.

CHANGING THE GAS CYLINDER

1. Turn the heater off by turning the handwheel on the cylinder valve fully clockwise to the OFF position.
2. Wait until the flame has gone out completely. If the flame does not go out, call the hire company immediately.
3. With the flame out, allow the heater to run on fan only for a few minutes to cool down.
4. Ensure there are no naked flames nearby and the room is well ventilated.
5. Switch the fan off. Unscrew the regulator connecting union using the correct spanner. The union has a left hand thread.
6. Put the regulator assembly to one side, taking care not to damage the hose and union assembly.
7. Take any plastic protective plug out of the valve on the new cylinder and save for refitting to the old cylinder.
8. Check the valve connection on the new cylinder is the same as the one on the old cylinder and the threads are undamaged. If it is different do not try to fit the new cylinder. This could be very dangerous. Refit the old cylinder and contact the hire company.
9. If the valve connections are the same, move the empty cylinder to a safe location. Position the new one to the side of the heater where it will be clear of the heat, but without straining the gas hose. Remember to take care - the new cylinder will be heavier than the empty one.
10. Fit to the empty cylinder any plastic protective plug kept from the new cylinder.
11. Check the threaded connection on the regulator is clean and undamaged. Carefully fit the connector by hand - it has a left hand thread. When the connector is threaded properly, do it up hand tight, then tighten fully using the correct spanner.
12. If the cylinder connection does not appear to be gas tight, do not try to light the heater.
13. Check the valve handwheel is turned fully clockwise to the OFF position. Contact the hire company immediately.
14. If the heater does not work properly, do not try to repair or adjust it. Contact the hire company.

Please keep this leaflet safely as it may be required for future reference

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Before Starting Work...

PROPANE GAS SAFETY (...continued)

3. If a gas leak is suspected, turn off the heater using the control tap. Put out any naked lights or other sources of ignition. Ventilate the area by opening windows or doors.
4. Never look for a leak with a naked flame - this is always extremely dangerous. Use soapy water.
5. If the cylinder is leaking, call the fire brigade and evacuate the area.
6. Do not attempt to repair any suspected leaks. Contact the hire company immediately.
7. In some conditions, frost may form on a gas cylinder that is in use. This indicates the flow of gas that is being used. Contact the hire company.
8. Do not try to warm the cylinder to remove the frost. Take care when handling a frosty cylinder as the cold can cause frost burns.
9. Handle cylinders carefully when moving them about. Do not drop them off vehicles - ask for assistance to lower them safely.
10. Keep unused and empty cylinderd away from heat at all times.

WORK AREA

1. Do not use the heater where there is a fire risk from combustible materials or flammable liquids and gases.
2. Ensure the heater is only used in spaces where there is adequate ventilation or a supply of fresh air. If the heater does not get a good supply of fresh air, the gas will not burn properly. Fumes from this incomplete combustion are very dangerous.
3. Ventilation in the space to be heated will also reduce the amount of condensation produced by the heater.
4. The heater is not suitable for use in occupied domestic premises or small room because of the heat produced and air blast.

FORCED AIR HEATER

1. Check the heater including mains cables, gas hoses and cylinders. If anything is found to be damaged, do not use the heater; contact the Hire Company.
2. Check the gas regulator on the heater matches the valve on the cylinder. This connection has a left hand thread. Do not try to force connections or improvise them.
3. Do not place clothes or other material on the heater or directly in front of it.
4. Ensure there is no burnable material such as fabric or paper near the heater where it may get hot. The heater is best positioned away from walls facing into the centre of the space to be heated.
5. The air blast will disturb papers and other light materials. Ensure there is nothing nearby that could be drawn towards the heater.
6. Ensure the back of the heater is clear and there are no loose items that will block the fan inlet.
7. Put the heater in the position that it is intended to be used before connecting the gas cylinder. Check there is no gas cylinder in the heated airstream.
8. If the heater is to be left unattended in an area where there may be children or infirm persons, barriers will need to be erected to keep people at a safe distance.
9. Never move the heater while it is lit.
10. Ensure you understand all of the controls. Before lighting the heater - know how to turn it off.

ELECTRICAL SAFETY

1. If the heater is fitted with a voltage selector switch, ensure that it is set to match the supply and to the plug fitted to the heater, either: 110v machines will have a yellow industrial plug fitted. 230v machines will have either a fused square pin (domestic) plug fitted or a blue industrial one. Read the instructions below for the machine.

110 VOLT MACHINES (YELLOW PLUG)

1. If using a portable transformer, plug the transformer directly into the 230v socket. Do not use any 230v extension cables.
2. If an extension cable is required to be used, follow any special instructions given by the hire company. If the hire company has not given any special instructions, use a suitably heavy duty 110v extension cable no longer than 50 metres (160 feet). The extension cable must only be used between the transformer and the machine.
3. Lay the extension cable out carefully avoiding liquids, sharp edges, doorways or windows where it might be trapped and places where vehicles may run over it. Unroll it fully or it may overheat and catch fire.
4. Ensure any extension cable connections are dry and safe.

230 VOLT MACHINES (SQUARE PIN OR BLUE PLUG)

1. Use a residual current device ("RCD") plugged directly into the 230v socket. Plug the machine into the RCD - this will help protect against electric shock if the cable or machine is damaged.
2. Use the "TEST" button to check the RCD is working each time it is used. Reset the RCD according to the instructions supplied with it.
3. If an extension cable is required follow any special instructions given by the hire company. If the hire company has not given any special instructions use only a suitably rated heavy dute extension cable no longer than 50 metres (160 feet). Plug it directly into the RCD.
4. Lay out the extension cable carefully avoiding liquids, sharp edges, doorways or windows where it may become trapped and places where vehicles may run over it. Unroll the cable fully or it may overheat and catch fire.
5. Ensure the extension cable connections are safe and dry.

LIGHTING THE HEATER

1. This section describes the starting procedure for most forced air heaters. If the hire company has given special instructions for the heater, follow them. Otherwise, follow the instructions given below.
2. Check there is nothing in front of the heater that could catch fire. Do not lean over the heater when starting it.
3. Switch the fan on and let it run up to speed.
4. Turn the handwheel on the gas cylinder valve anti-clockwise to the ON position. Press and hold the pilot valve button and then push the ignition button until it clicks. Continue to hold the pilot valve button in. This allows the safety cut-out device to come into operation.

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