

- 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.

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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.

*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 198



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!