



OUTDOOR HEATER Buying Guide

Regardless of the climate where you live, the ultimate dream is having an outdoor space that you can use year-round. **Outdoor heaters make it possible** for you to enjoy your outdoor space not only during the spring and summer months, but also during the fall and winter after temperatures start to drop.

No matter your style and preferences, **there's an outdoor heater that will work for your space**, your budget, and your lifestyle.

The Benefits of Heating Your Outdoor Space

Outdoor spaces include more than just back decks. Patios, pool areas, backyards, covered porches, gazebos, and more can all benefit from the warmth and comfort of an outdoor heater. In addition to providing heat during colder months, outdoor heaters allow you and your family to spend more time outside, provide you with extended living space, add a beautiful centerpiece and provide ambience to your outdoor space. With outdoor heaters, your unused outdoor space can become an outdoor living area.



Outdoor heaters can also transform spaces for business owners and their customers. Restaurants, coffee shops, and more will benefit from the addition of an outdoor heater, as more customers can be seated comfortably during different months of the year.

Different heaters are necessary for different spaces, and we can help you choose the outdoor heater type that will best work for you.

Choosing Your Heater Type

Natural Gas and Propane Heaters vs. Electric Heaters

Gas patio heaters are great options for homeowners or commercial spaces with a well-ventilated deck or patio space and existing gas lines. Outdoor propane heaters fall under the umbrella of gas heaters, but their operation isn't dependent on a natural gas line or electricity. For outdoor spaces that lack the proper ventilation required for natural gas or propane heaters, there is also the choice of an electric outdoor heater.

For a more in-depth look at the differences between and advantages to these types of heaters, check out our blog on [How to Heat Your Outdoor Space](#).



Choosing Your Heater Style

Free Standing vs. Wall Mounted vs. Ceiling Mounted

Free-standing heaters are mobile and portable, meaning they can be moved to various locations in your own outdoor space or can travel with you to different locations for parties or events. But, because they are free standing, they take up floor space and aren't suitable for tight spaces.

Wall-mounted and ceiling-mounted heaters are fixed to their locations. Wall-mounted heaters are ideal for small areas or those with low or busy ceilings. Ceiling-mounted heaters work well in areas with higher ceilings and have more intense and even heat footprints.

Determining Your Heating and Sizing Needs

To determine your heating and sizing needs, there's a three-step calculation you can use **to determine how many BTUs or patio heaters you need:**

- 1 Measure the cubic footage (length x width x height) of your patio or covered porch. If your patio is uncovered, you'll want to heat to a height of about seven feet.
- 2 Consider how cold it gets where you live versus your desired temperature for the patio.
 - For example, if it's 45 degrees F and you want to heat the patio to 75 F, your desired temperature increase is 30 degrees.
- 3 Multiply your cubic feet total by your calculated desired temperature increase, and that's the number of BTUs you need from your outdoor heater.

Safety Considerations

There are different safety considerations for each type and style of outdoor heater. Natural gas and propane heaters both require outdoor, well-ventilated areas and should be kept away from children and pets. If you're limited on space, have young kids or pets, or own a restaurant, hanging or flush mounted heaters will be your best option, as they're tucked up and out of the way. If the location you're looking to heat is partially indoors or is a screened porch, electric heaters are your best option.

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Safety Considerations (continued)

Other safety considerations include:

- Heaters need to be placed on completely level surfaces that can hold their weight.
- Heaters should not be placed in areas with a lot of wind, low-hanging tree branches, or plants.
- You should never hang clothes or other materials on or near the heater.
- Make sure to check the clearances and wall clearances offered by the manufacturer.
- Turn the heater off and allow it to cool before completing maintenance. If you have a standing heater, turn it off before moving it to another location.

Other than being aware of these precautions, outdoor heaters are safe if used properly.

Installation Process

Minimal installation is required for mounted propane or electric heaters.

Natural gas heaters require gas lines, so if you don't have them, you'll need to get them installed. If you have existing gas lines, we recommend coordinating the installation of gas heaters with trained professionals like plumbers, gas specialists, and HVAC technicians.



Maintenance Requirements

There's not a lot of maintenance required to care for your outdoor heaters. To clean their surfaces, wipe down the outside with mild soap and water or a damp cloth. Store portable style heaters in a garage or cover them when not in use.

Propane heaters will need their gas tanks replaced periodically, depending on the amount of use.

If you would like more information on outdoor heaters or want to speak with a professional from American Gas Lamp Works, visit us at AmericanGasLamp.com, like us on Facebook, or follow us on Instagram.

