

What a space heater costs to run in every state

A plug-in space heater on high draws 1,500 watts. Here is what that costs per hour, and per month if it runs 8 hours a day, at each state's average residential electricity price.

\$0.27

per hour at the U.S. average of
18.31¢/kWh

\$65.92

per month at 8 hours a day, U.S. average
(360 kWh)

\$45.79 to \$173

the same month in Louisiana (12.72¢) and
Hawaii (48.00¢)

State	Price per kWh	Per hour	Month, 8 h/day	State	Price per kWh	Per hour	Month, 8 h/day	State	Price per kWh	Per hour	Month, 8 h/day
Alabama	16.40¢	\$0.25	\$59.04	Kentucky	13.81¢	\$0.21	\$49.72	North Dakota	13.41¢	\$0.20	\$48.28
Alaska	28.83¢	\$0.43	\$104	Louisiana	12.72¢	\$0.19	\$45.79	Ohio	19.45¢	\$0.29	\$70.02
Arizona	15.38¢	\$0.23	\$55.37	Maine	32.41¢	\$0.49	\$117	Oklahoma	14.35¢	\$0.22	\$51.66
Arkansas	14.33¢	\$0.21	\$51.59	Maryland	21.41¢	\$0.32	\$77.08	Oregon	15.97¢	\$0.24	\$57.49
California	33.61¢	\$0.50	\$121	Massachusetts	30.49¢	\$0.46	\$110	Pennsylvania	21.72¢	\$0.33	\$78.19
Colorado	17.00¢	\$0.26	\$61.20	Michigan	23.05¢	\$0.35	\$82.98	Rhode Island	28.29¢	\$0.42	\$102
Connecticut	24.16¢	\$0.36	\$86.98	Minnesota	17.45¢	\$0.26	\$62.82	South Carolina	15.47¢	\$0.23	\$55.69
Delaware	18.48¢	\$0.28	\$66.53	Mississippi	14.54¢	\$0.22	\$52.34	South Dakota	15.37¢	\$0.23	\$55.33
D.C.	25.21¢	\$0.38	\$90.76	Missouri	16.09¢	\$0.24	\$57.92	Tennessee	13.71¢	\$0.21	\$49.36
Florida	15.03¢	\$0.23	\$54.11	Montana	14.99¢	\$0.22	\$53.96	Texas	15.88¢	\$0.24	\$57.17
Georgia	16.27¢	\$0.24	\$58.57	Nebraska	13.78¢	\$0.21	\$49.61	Utah	13.12¢	\$0.20	\$47.23
Hawaii	48.00¢	\$0.72	\$173	Nevada	12.77¢	\$0.19	\$45.97	Vermont	23.75¢	\$0.36	\$85.50
Idaho	13.73¢	\$0.21	\$49.43	New Hampshire	26.60¢	\$0.40	\$95.76	Virginia	17.55¢	\$0.26	\$63.18
Illinois	19.22¢	\$0.29	\$69.19	New Jersey	25.19¢	\$0.38	\$90.68	Washington	14.71¢	\$0.22	\$52.96
Indiana	16.73¢	\$0.25	\$60.23	New Mexico	16.09¢	\$0.24	\$57.92	West Virginia	15.78¢	\$0.24	\$56.81
Iowa	15.99¢	\$0.24	\$57.56	New York	29.90¢	\$0.45	\$108	Wisconsin	19.06¢	\$0.29	\$68.62
Kansas	15.27¢	\$0.23	\$54.97	North Carolina	15.16¢	\$0.23	\$54.58	Wyoming	14.36¢	\$0.22	\$51.70

Use the price on your own bill

State averages hide a lot. Your utility's price, with delivery charges, can be well above or below it. Divide the bill total for electricity by the kWh used to get your all-in price, then:

$$\text{watts} \times \text{hours} \div 1,000 \times \text{price per kWh} = \text{cost}$$

Example: 1,500 W × 8 h ÷ 1,000 × \$0.20 = \$2.40 a day, or \$72.00 for a 30-day month. Most heaters cycle on and off once the room is warm, so real use is often lower than the nameplate.

Before you plug one in

Keep it 3 feet from anything that can burn, plug it straight into a wall outlet (no extension cord or power strip), and turn it off when you leave the room or go to sleep.

Heating one room with a heater can cost less than heating the whole house. Heating the whole house with several heaters usually costs more than a heat pump or furnace.

1. Prices: U.S. EIA, Electric Power Monthly, Table 5.6.A (residential sector), July 2026, released September 24, 2026.
eia.gov/electricity/monthly/epm_table_grapher.php?t=epmt_5_6_a

2. 1,500 W: U.S. CPSC Staff Assessment on Portable Electric Heaters (Feb 2023) found a heater advertised as 2,000 W measured 1,500 W at most; 1,500 W is the practical limit on a standard 120 V outlet.

3. Safety: U.S. CPSC winter heating safety guidance (2023). Costs are estimates for a 30-day month and do not include taxes or fixed monthly charges.