



SAFETY GUIDELINE

Heat Lamps

Heat lamps generate heat through infrared radiation. They are used in many applications, including, but not limited to, animal enclosures, food service, bathrooms, paint and chemical drying, medical use, and plants. Heat lamps can pose fire and electrical hazards. They must be used and maintained properly, and good-quality products and accessories must be purchased.

Purchasing Heat Lamps

Purchase good-quality UL-approved heat lamps with ceramic collars, metal deflectors, and a thick electrical cord (see example below).

Heat lamps must be enclosed with a heat lamp guard or “bail.” The bail is a wire case around the bulb that keeps flammable material away from it. Choose a lamp with a sturdy bail and never remove or alter it.

If the lamp is going to be used outdoors, ensure the lamp is labeled for outdoor use. Please consult with UNMC EHS if you are planning to use a heat lamp outdoors.

Use high-quality bulbs, as low-quality bulbs, such as thin glass, can shatter. Red heat lamp bulbs typically emit red light and are 250 watts. Avoid using bulbs over 250 watts.



Prima Heat Lamp (left)
Others (right) – minimal protective grid, hot to the touch

Specs

- Dimensions: 9-3/8" diameter, 15" tall
- 16 ft cord with anti-chew spring wire
- Ceramic fixture fits standard BR40 or [infrared heat lamp bulbs](#) up to 250W
- Glass-reinforced plastic—for resistance to high temperatures and ornery animals
- Secure clip holder design



[Prima Heat Lamp - Premier1Supplies](#)

General Safety Precautions

Please avoid using the heat lamp overnight or when it cannot be monitored, and always unplug heat lamps when they are not in use.

Perform regular inspections by checking the lamp cord and fixture for damage before use and ensuring the bulb is tightly secured.

Heat lamps should be at least 18 inches away from cloth, paper, and other combustible materials and at least 20 inches away from animals.

Only use heat lamps with a ceramic socket, as other types of sockets can fail when exposed to the lamps' temperature.

Use the bulb with the appropriate wattage compatible with the heat lamp.

Do not enclose heat lamps. Heat will build up and degrade both the lamp and the bulb.

Please consult with IACUC/ Animal Care before using a heat lamp with animals.

Securing Your Lamp

Secure the lamp to a panel using a chain, clamp, or heat lamp stand to ensure it won't easily tip, blow, or fall over. It is unsafe if the lamp assembly can easily slip apart or be knocked over by a person or the animals being warmed.

Ensure that the heat lamp is not directly touching anything.

If applicable, ensure the lamp is secured high enough so that people or animals cannot contact the fixture.

Fire Hazard

Heat lamps operate at higher temperatures than regular incandescent lamps, so they should only be used in fixtures designed to prevent fire.

Never lay a heat lamp on a flammable surface.

Be mindful of materials used near the heat lamp, as they have been shown to melt materials such as plastic. Avoid using flammable materials and store all flammable chemicals away from the heat lamp.

Know where the nearest fire extinguisher is, how to use it properly and ensure a working smoke detector is nearby.

Electrical Hazard

Heat lamps should be plugged into an outlet equipped with an arc fault circuit interrupter (AFCI) or ground-fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) that can handle their wattage.

Heat lamps must be sheltered from moisture. They should not be used close to liquids, as they can fall and break, exposing the element and resulting in dangerous sparking.

Storage & Disposal

40 CFR 273.9 defines a lamp as an electric lighting device's bulb or tube portion. A lamp is designed to produce radiant energy, most often in the electromagnetic spectrum's ultraviolet, visible, and infrared regions. The EPA regulates some lamps as Universal Wastes. Common universal waste electric lamps include fluorescent, high-intensity discharge, neon, mercury vapor, high-pressure sodium, and metal halide lamps.

If your heat lamp meets the definition of universal waste, please reference the [Universal Waste Storage and Disposal Fact Sheet](#) for guidance on proper storage and disposal.

References

[Using Heat Lamps: Proceed with Caution! | Agricultural Safety and Health Program](#)

[Safety Tips For Using A Heat Lamp | Meyer Hatchery Blog](#)

[Heat Lamp Safety Tips | Co-operative Insurance Companies](#)

[Universal Waste | US EPA](#)