

Many of our site cabins are fitted with down flow blow heaters, designed to generate large quantities of heat quickly and therefore ideally suited for use in kitchens and drying rooms.

However, whilst there are a variety of different makes and models in use across the industry, they all operate on the same basic principles and it is essential they are used properly to avoid any potential fire hazards.



Please follow the guidelines set out below designed to minimise potential fire risks.

Are the heaters in your cabin correctly installed?

These types of heaters are designed to be permanently wall mounted, observing minimum clearances in relation to adjoining walls and floors. It is imperative the clearances are maintained:

Typical Clearance requirements (guideline):

- Minimum distance from the floor is 1800mm
- Not less than 300mm below the ceiling or other projecting surface

If, during your weekly site inspection, you find heaters installed which contravene the installation clearances indicated above please contact Galliford Try Plant immediately.

Safe Use – Thermal Cut-out Protection

For safety, these heaters are fitted with a thermal cut-out designed to switch off the unit automatically in the event it should overheat. In these situations the unit can be reset by turning off the electricity supply, removing the cause of overheating and allowing the unit to cool down for a few minutes.

Some designs include additional protection using a thermal fuse link. In the event the link should be broken, the electricity supply will go “open circuit” and the heater will fail to operate. This will normally indicate a faulty heater unit. Under these circumstances the heater cannot be reset and will need to be repaired by a qualified electrician. Contact Galliford Try Plant immediately.

Safety Advice and Guidelines

- Down flow heaters are not designed to be left on 24/7 or when site is unattended; however if they are required to operate for extended periods please ensure they are regularly checked by site staff.
- These heaters should be checked as part of the site weekly inspection routine; any wall heater that is found to show signs of damage or evidence of overheating should be turned off and isolated at the distribution board and reported to Galliford Try Plant immediately.
- Do not cover the appliance or place materials or garments on or under it or obstruct the air circulation; there must be a minimum of 1 metre clear space around the heater at all times.
- Carelessly drying clothes cause's fires; coat stands and drying racks must be securely fixed at a safe distance from the heater.
- Ensure that dust or fluff does not accumulate inside the heater as this could lead to overheating; use a vacuum cleaner to regularly remove any dust build-up.
- Ensure that all site accommodation is periodically electrically tested in accordance with the relevant regulations.

Note; these guidelines are designed to capture a wide range of down flow heater designs and are a combination of manufacturer operating instructions, extracts from existing H&S bulletins and the Fire Prevention on Construction Sites code of practice.

If you require any further information or assistance please call Steve Bishop at GT Plant on 01455 882298.