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Heating devices and insurance: tips to keep safe and warm

With the cold front in full force, fireplaces, gas and electric heaters, electric blankets, and hot water bottles become our trusted companions. However, it's crucial to prioritise safety. Wynand van Vuuren, client experience partner at King Price Insurance, shares some vital tips to keep your home and family warm and safe this winter.

Open fires: Ensure that your chimney is clean and free from blockages. Use protective screens in front of wood-burning stoves, fireplaces, and fire pits.

Gas heaters: Beware of 'dirty gas' sold by rogue fillers who use unauthorised filling methods and products, often involving dangerous substances like jet fuel. This not only poses significant safety risks, it can also damage your heater's regulators, appliances, and rubber components. Always buy gas from reputable suppliers and check the dates on the cylinders to ensure that they've been tested recently. When summer rolls around, store your gas cylinders upright with their safety caps on.

Electric heaters: Keep heaters, both gas and electric, away from flammable objects such as curtains, furniture, and bedding, and don't drape washing over heaters to dry. Never leave a heater unattended. Turning electric heaters off when not in use isn't only kinder to your electricity bill, it's also safer, especially if you have children and pets. I **iol.co.za/personal-finance**

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