

NEWS from CPSC

U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission

Office of Information and Public Affairs

Washington, DC 20207

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 23, 1997
Release # 98-017

Company Phone Number: (800) 567-2613
CPSC Consumer Hotline: (800) 638-2772
CPSC Media Contact: Keni Giles, (301) 504-7052

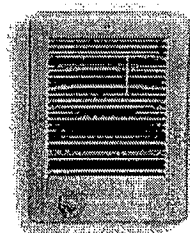
Note: This release has been superceded by two more recent releases, which can be found at 00-070 and 02-531

CPSC, Cadet Manufacturing Announce Recall of In-Wall Heaters

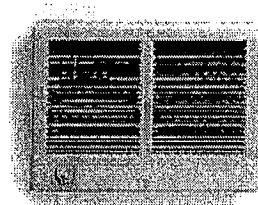
WASHINGTON, D.C. - In cooperation with the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), Cadet Manufacturing Company of Vancouver, Wash., is recalling about 190,000 electric in-wall heaters. Limit switches within these heaters can emit sparks, presenting a fire hazard.

Cadet Manufacturing has received 44 reports of fires involving these heaters. Most of these reports resulted in fires that self-extinguished. However, Cadet has received two reports of fires causing considerable property damage. No injuries have been reported from these fires. CPSC has received a 45th report of two deaths from a fire involving a Cadet heater where a sofa was nearby. The cause of the ignition of the sofa remains under investigation.

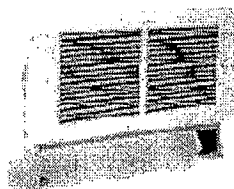
The heaters involved in this recall may have the Cadet or Encore brand name on the heater's grill. The heaters involved in this recall must have the following: 1) a model number beginning with FX, FW, LX or ZA followed by three numbers on a label on the front of the internal heater assembly; 2) a limit switch made of black plastic casings on the heater assembly. These casings look like small black discs and have wires attached. Only heaters with black plastic limit switches are included in the recall. Some models will have a single limit switch and others will have two limit switches. Before checking the markings on the heater assembly, consumers will need to remove the heater's grill and the screw at the top of the heater assembly. Before doing this, consumers must disconnect the power supply to the heater or fuse box.



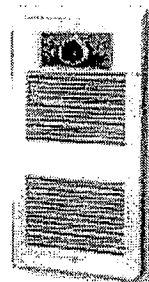
Model FX



Model LX



Model ZX



Model RX

These heaters have been installed in homes from 1985 through 1992 in Oregon, Washington, California, Idaho, Montana and Wyoming. Fewer than one percent were distributed nationwide under the name Encore through the following retailers: Menards, Home Base, Builders Square, Ace Hardware and Fred Meyer for about \$100 to \$200.

Consumers should stop using these heaters immediately and call Cadet at (800) 567-2613 Monday through Friday between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. PDT.

Heaters with white ceramic switch casings are not included in this recall.

Send the link for this page to a friend! The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission is charged with protecting the public from unreasonable risks of serious injury or death from more than 15,000 types of consumer products under the agency's jurisdiction. Deaths, injuries and property damage from consumer product incidents cost the nation more than \$800 billion annually. The CPSC is committed to protecting consumers and families from products that pose a fire, electrical, chemical, or mechanical hazard. The CPSC's work to ensure the safety of consumer products - such as toys, cribs, power tools, cigarette lighters, and household chemicals - contributed significantly to the decline in the rate of deaths and injuries associated with consumer products over the past 30 years.

To report a dangerous product or a product-related injury, call CPSC's hotline at (800) 638-2772 or CPSC's teletypewriter at (800) 638-8270, or visit CPSC's web site at www.cpsc.gov/talk.html. To join a CPSC email subscription list, please go to <https://www.cpsc.gov/cpsclist.aspx>. Consumers can obtain this release and recall information at CPSC's Web site at www.cpsc.gov.

NEWS from CPSC

U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission

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Washington, DC 20207

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Originally issued February 17, 2000

Last revised October 14, 2004

Release # 00-070

Company Phone Number: (800) 567-2613

CPSC Consumer Hotline: (800) 638-2772

CPSC Media Contact: Frank Nava, (510) 637-4053

Note: model type addition, link change

CPSC, Cadet Recall In-Wall Heaters; Settle Lawsuit

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) and Cadet Manufacturing Co., of Vancouver, Wash., announced today the recall of more than 1.9 million Cadet and Encore brand in-wall electric heaters, distributed mainly in California, Idaho, Montana, Oregon and Washington. This recall announcement follows the resolution of the lawsuit filed by CPSC staff against the company on January 14, 1999.

CPSC alleges that the following Cadet and Encore brand in-wall electric heaters are defective and can overheat and catch fire: models FW, FX, LX, TK, ZA, Z, RA, RK, RLX, RX, RW and ZC. Flames, sparks or molten particles can spew through the front grill cover of the heater into the living area of a residence, putting consumers at risk from fires, including burn injuries, smoke inhalation and property damage. The heaters also can become energized creating a risk of electric shock.

CPSC is aware of more than 320 reports of heaters that smoked, sparked, caught fire, emitted flames, or ejected burning particles or molten materials. These incidents have allegedly resulted in three deaths, two serious burn injuries and property damage claims exceeding \$1.2 million, which include five partial or total house fires.

The heaters that are part of today's recall announcement are the following models of Cadet and Encore brands: FW, FX, LX, TK, ZA, Z, RA, RK, RLX, RX, RW and ZC. The brand and model are located on a label on the front of the heat box, behind the grill. Before removing the grill to check the identification label, consumers must disconnect the power supply to the heater at the circuit breaker. If power is not disconnected, consumers risk electrocution and shock.

Cadet is offering consumers replacement heaters at a significantly reduced cost. Each heater will cost between \$25 and \$57, depending on the model. Consumers who already have replaced the recalled units from October 23, 1997, until today can file a claim for partial reimbursement for \$25 per heater. Consumers must register to participate in this recall by February 17, 2002. To register, contact Cadet anytime at (800) 567-2613 or at http://www.cadetco.com/upgrade_program.php#recall.

CPSC routinely requires companies to pay the full costs associated with recalls. In this case, Cadet has recently emerged from bankruptcy and is unable to provide free replacements or full reimbursements.

In October 1997, Cadet recalled its model FW, FX, LX and ZA heaters to replace defective over-temperature black plastic limit switches. By December 1997, Cadet informed CPSC that it could no longer pay the full costs of the recall, and that the number of heaters involved were far greater than it had originally known. While attempting to resolve the problems with the limit switch recall, the CPSC staff discovered additional problems with the heaters involved in the 1997 recall, as well as problems with some other Cadet and Encore models. In addition to the switch defect, the heating elements and internal wiring connections are defective and can fail. Even if consumers have had the heaters' switches repaired, the heaters have additional problems and need to be replaced.

CPSC strongly urges consumers to participate in this recall. Since the recalled heaters pose a fire hazard until they are replaced, consumers should have at least one fully operational smoke detector on every floor of their home, especially near bedrooms. To ensure that the detector's batteries are working, test the detector every month. Consumers also should have a well-defined and rehearsed escape plan and an alternate escape plan in the event of a fire. You can get information about this from "Your Home Fire Safety Checklist" ([pdf version](#)) or ([text version](#)). To obtain a free hard copy of this publication, write to CPSC, Washington, D.C. 20207.

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Recall Alert

U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission

Office of Information and Public Affairs

Washington, DC 20207

Originally issued April 2, 2002

Revised October 14, 2004

Alert #02-531

CPSC Media Contact: Mark Ross

(301) 504-7076

Cadet Manufacturing Co. Recall of In-Wall Electric Heaters

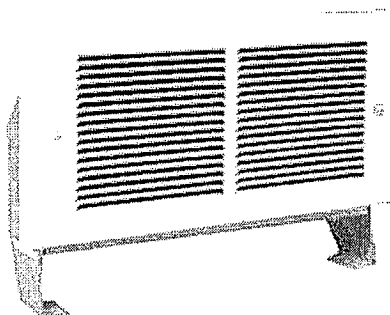
Note: link change

PRODUCT: RM and ZM Model Cadet In-Wall Heaters - In cooperation with the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), Cadet Manufacturing Co., of Vancouver, Wash., is reminding consumers about its voluntary recall program for certain RM and ZM model Cadet in-wall electric heaters which began in July 2001. The RM and ZM program is not affected by the closure of the recall program for the Cadet heaters announced in February 2000. The RM and ZM model heaters were distributed mainly in California, Idaho, Montana, Oregon and Washington. This program involves RM and ZM heaters that were shipped prior to September 2000 and provided as replacements for the model ZA and RA Cadet heaters that were recalled in February 2000. The program also includes about 19,000 units of the RM and ZM model Cadet heaters that were sold through other sales channels from 1998 through 2001. Only heaters used as a replacement for the ZA and RA models and installed in a ZAC wall can and wired through the top-left wall can knock-out are part of this recall.

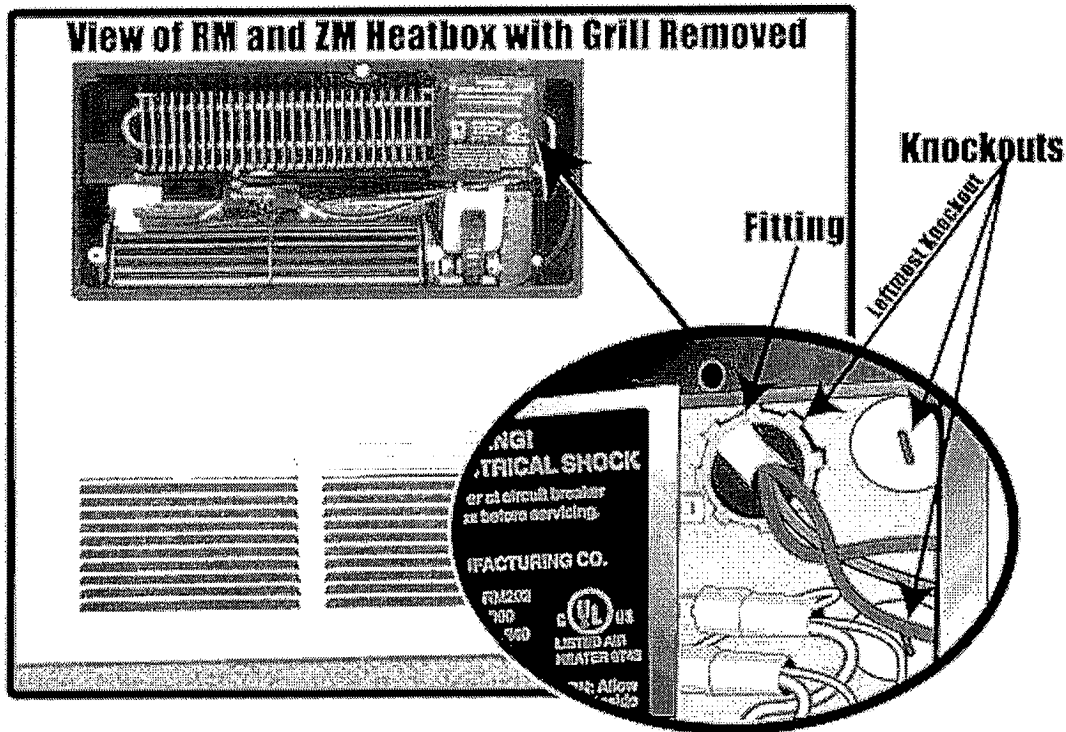
PROBLEM: When an RM or ZM model heatbox (replacing a ZA or RA model heatbox) is inserted into a ZAC wall can and wired through a fitting in the top-left wall can knock-out (see diagram below), the RM or ZM model has the potential for continuous heater operation, regardless of thermostat settings or room temperature. This can cause the heater to overheat and catch nearby combustibles on fire.

INCIDENTS/INJURIES: None reported.

WHAT TO DO: Consumers should check to see if their heater meets the conditions of this recall by following the directions at Cadet's web site at http://www.cadetco.com/upgrade_program.php#recall. If the heater is part of the recall, stop using it immediately by turning it off at the electrical panel board (circuit breaker or fuse box). Consumers should contact Cadet to schedule a free repair at (800) 567-2613 between 6 a.m. and 6 p.m. PT Monday through Friday. In July 2001, Cadet began directly notifying affected consumers who participated in the October 1997 and February 2000 heater recalls about this RM and ZM program and began arranging service calls.



ZA and RA model grill



WARNING: Do not remove the heater grill until you have read the important safety instructions found at Cadet's web site: www.cadetco.com/recall_program.php. Failure to do so could result in serious electric shock, burns or electrocution.

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