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How to bypass heating thermostat

CC BY 2.0/Your Best Digs/Flickr When it comes to small heating systems, electric and infrared heaters are among the most popular choices for small rooms or for warming up a small space in a larger room. Small heaters mainly serve to supplement the central heating system of your home, concentrating it in one area. These heaters come in two primary types, and some people may prefer an electric heater over the infrared heater and vice versa. Is there really a distinction between the type of heat that electric and infrared heaters generate? Here's how the types differ.**Main Difference Between Electric and Infrared Heaters** As their name implies, electric heaters generate heat using electricity. To use an electric heater, you only need to plug it in and wait for it to do its job. Other electric heaters may connect directly to a fuse box, while some smaller ones are battery powered. Infrared heaters, on the other hand, can generate heat using electricity, but they can also get their power from propane or natural gas. This type of heater may directly connect to your home's existing utilities or to propane tanks that also power grills and similar appliances.**How Electric Heaters Work**Electric heaters work in a similar fashion to incandescent light bulbs in that they use a resistance-based heating element to generate heat. As electric current passes through the heating element, which is usually made of chromium or nickel, it produces heat. Electric stoves and ovens also have these same heating elements. To work, electric heaters need to have fans behind their heating elements to help distribute warmth in a room, which is why some electric heaters can oscillate. The length of heaters' cords limits the effective range of electric heaters, and some types take a while to warm up a room.**How Infrared Heaters Work**What infrared heaters do is radiate an invisible light, which in turn produces heat. Infrared heaters have quartz incandescent tubes to produce this type of light, which is below the visible spectrum. The type of heat that infrared heaters produce is the same kind of heat that the sun radiates. While infrared heaters work faster than electric heaters, they're only effective in heating what's in their direct paths. These heaters cannot effectively disperse heat in a room.**Choosing the Right Size**Both electric and infrared heaters can work well at keeping you warm during the cold months. The key is to use the right size to suit your needs. Smaller heaters can effectively warm just one or two persons, while larger ones can heat up a room. Check out the space heater's rating to guide you in purchasing the right heater size that fits your requirements. Heaters are also often rated by the square footage that they can heat in a specified amount of time.**Safety Concerns**One important consideration when purchasing a space heater is its safety features. Because these appliances produce heat, you have to make sure that the one you choose won't burn anyone in your household or become a fire hazard. One safety feature that's helpful to look for is a sensor that automatically shuts off the heater when it overheats or when someone tips it over. Look for testing certifications such as UL or ETL. Make it a point to check the power cord regularly for damage; this is a major cause of fires, injuries and deaths because of space heaters. Always make sure you place your heater away from furniture, drapes and other decor items to keep them from getting too hot. **MORE FROM QUESTIONSANSWERED.NET** Originally Posted By: kshepardThis post was automatically imported from our archived forum.Every once n a while I run into an electronic thermostat I don't understand. Several different HVAC contractors have told me that it's fine to by-pass the controls at the furnace. Disconnect the white wire and hook an alligator-clip jumper between red and white lugs. They said you by-pass the circuit board this way and it's perfectly safe. I mentioned it at a NACHI meeting last spring, everyone seemed horrified and now I'm nervous about it. I don't like to leave without testing the heating system. Any thoughts on this? Kent Originally Posted By: dandersenThis post was automatically imported from our archived forum.Kent, If you must bypass the thermostat, that's the way you do it. It is not necessary to remove the white wire from the terminal though. Just hook the jumper between the red and white. If the unit is running in air-conditioning, some packaged gas units will not operate in heat when the air-conditioning is also running. In this case, remove the yellow wire before jumping the white. It is always best to operate the system through the thermostat whenever possible. This ensures that the thermostat operates the equipment properly. Originally Posted By: jbushartThis post was automatically imported from our archived forum.If you are by-passing the thermostat to start the heating system, how do you know that the system is functioning normally?-Home Inspection Services of Missouri www.missourihomeinspection.com "We're NACHI. Get over it." www.monachi.org Originally Posted By: rfarruggiaThis post was automatically imported from our archived forum.This seems to happen alot to me lately. Homeowners replace the old bi-metallic thermostats with programmable one to lower heating costs, but dont install them correctly. I only operate the boiler/furnace through the thermostat. If that dosent work, I report "heating plant does not respond to normal operating controls. Service and repair by a qualified contractor is needed". Originally Posted By: lungarThis post was automatically imported from our archived forum.Hi! Ray, Your's seems the best and less liability to boot !!! I also do it your way but have the owner do it if possible. Originally Posted By: kshepardThis post was automatically imported from our archived forum. They told me to beware of running the air-conditioning systems using this method and I consider air-conditioning to be a less critical system (maybe not less expensive to repair or replace) so I've avoided testing them. I'd like to be able to do that. Have you ever had any problems resulting from jumping the controls while testing air-condition systems? If you are by-passing the thermostat to start the heating system, how do you know that the system is functioning normally? James I don't, but I know a lot more than I would if I just walked away. Homeowners replace the old bi-metallic thermostats with programmable one to lower heating costs, but don't install them correctly. Ranymond This must mean that when you attempt to operate the thermostat, the system doesn't respond to the controls, so you have no choice but to jump it in order to test the rest of the system? When it doesn't respond, do you then check to see whether the thermostat is installed incorrectly? Do you follow some sort of diagnostic procedure? Kent Originally Posted By: dedwardsThis post was automatically imported from our archived forum.I do not by-pass any normal operating controls. If I have to by pass normal controls then the unit regardless of what it is requires the services of a qualified and licensed professional. When you by-pass the normal controls you just made yourself responsible for anything that may go wrong with it whether you caused it or not. The last thing the client or seller will remember is that YOU did something out of the ordinary. You basically just performed "troubleshooting" techniques on the piece of equipment. I have a statement that says "Could not inspect, did not respond to normal operating controls" I am certified in HVAC and I do not do it because it is outside the scope and usually the training of the HI. Your call, but I do not recommend it. Originally Posted By: dedwardsThis post was automatically imported from our archived forum.Another thing to consider. Most modern equipment, not just HVAC, has safety features built in to preclude people and equipmetn from injury and damage. Most safety devices disable the unit from working. If you decide to "override" operating controls, you may well be overriding safety devices installed by the manufacturer to prevent the the operation of the equipment and now open yourself for all kinds of unpleasant consequences. I take the time to explain this to the client. I find loose flue pipes often. Do I just reconnect them and perform the furnace check?. HELL no! I write it up, tell the customer AND the seller they will need a service tech to reconnect and perform any necessary safety checks and while they are at it perform a functional / capacity check. If you "fix" something while doing the inspection you are open for anything that could go wrong as a result. I am asked all the time if I couldn't just reconnect it or fix this while I was there. I remind them I am an inspector, not their serviceman. Originally Posted By: qmartin2This post was automatically imported from our archived forum.I WAS TOLD By a tech years ago 'red & blue make BTU.' Originally Posted By: jrupertThis post was automatically imported from our archived forum.If you by pass the thermostat and short out the transformer you will pay for the repairs, most furnaces today do not make it easy to do with out removing the control cover or undoing wire nuts, and it is out of the scope of the inspection John Rupert Accurate Property Inspections Solitaire Heating & Cooling CSG Training (HVAC Training & Consulting) Originally Posted By: rcookeThis post was automatically imported from our archived forum. jrupert wrote: If you by pass the thermostat and short out the transformer you will pay for the repairs, most furnaces today do not make it easy to do with out removing the control cover or undoing wire nuts, and it is out of the scope of the inspection John Rupert Accurate Property Inspections Solitaire Heating & Cooling CSG Training (HVAC Training & Consulting) I was told by a gas man not to by pass the thermostat as you can burn out the anticipator in the thermostat . This is what shuts the furnace off before it get up to temp in the home with this not operating properly you get a home that is to cool when the furnace comes on then it is too hot when the furnace finishes it's cycle. Roy sr Originally Posted By: jrupertThis post was automatically imported from our archived forum.The heat anticipator can not be shorted by bypassing the thermostat. This can only be done if the 24volt control is grounded allowing a large amp draw through the thermostat, such as shorting between the gas valve connections or touching the white wire to the case of the furnace You are correct on the function of the anticipator . when set properly it will turn the furnace off slightly before the house reaches the set temp, preventing over heating. A thermostat that has a ?open? or ? shorted? anticipator will not function in the heating mode John Rupert Accurate Property Inspections Solitaire Heating & Cooling CSG Training (HVAC Training & Consulting)

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