

How do I work out what size heater I need?

Convactor heaters warm all the air in a space/room. It is therefore very important to choose the correct size heaters for the rooms you require heating. We will assume that your ceilings are normal height (about 2.8Metres)

Adax and Beha both produce size charts, but we find the following rule-of-thumb to work well for non-insulated Spanish houses.

In a living room you will need 100watts per m²: 1,000watts (1kw) per 10m².

In a bedroom you probably only need 75 watts per m²: 750watts per 10m².

You need to find out the area in square metres of your room. For my example I am going to make the dimensions 7metres by 3 metres, which is 21m². For ease of calculation let's call it 20m².

This means that if it is a living area you will need 2kw to heat it. If it is a bedroom; 1.5kw will probably be sufficient.

You then have to consider the following factors.

- The most efficient way to heat a rectangular room, like this, is to have two heaters; one at either end.
- It is cheaper to buy one 2kw heater than two 1kw heaters.
- Do you have sufficient wall space to mount your heaters? (free standing options with Neat Feet are available for all our models)

Other Factors you should consider.

- Your contracted limit. It is no good buying 7 kilowatts worth of heaters if your contract only permits you 5.5kw. If in doubt consult your supplier, or a qualified electrician.
- Convactor heaters cannot heat half a room. When calculating the area to heat you must always include any open plan areas that cannot be closed off. This includes hallways, stairwells, serving hatches to kitchens etc.
- Many houses in Spain have high ceilings. These must be included in your calculations.
- The aspect of your rooms will also determine how cold they get.

Having taken all the above into consideration, if you are undecided between two sizes, you should usually pick the larger option. The difference in purchase price is minimal, and.....

- The smaller heater might struggle on colder days.
- The larger heater will take less time to achieve the temperature you require, and turn off for longer periods, so the consumption will be similar.
- Never pick a smaller heater "Just to take off the chill". Always pick the correct heater and just turn it down to the required temperature.