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Mr. Heater MH18B

Mr. Heater Enerco MH18B Big Buddy Propane Heater User Manual

Model: MH18B | Brand: Mr. Heater

1. INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW

The Mr. Heater Enerco MH18B Big Buddy is a versatile radiant propane heater designed for both indoor and outdoor use. It provides heat output ranging from 4,000 to 18,000 BTUs, capable of warming spaces up to 450 square feet. This portable heater is clean-burning and nearly 100-percent efficient, making it suitable for various applications from workshops to outdoor gatherings. It features a robust design with a convenient carrying handle for easy transport.



Image: The Mr. Heater Big Buddy heater being carried, highlighting its portable design.

2. SAFETY INFORMATION

Your Mr. Heater Big Buddy is equipped with important safety features to ensure safe operation. Always read and understand the full safety warnings in the complete product manual before use.

- **Tip-Over Protection:** The heater will automatically shut off if it is accidentally tipped over, preventing potential hazards.
- **Low Oxygen Sensor:** An integrated sensor monitors oxygen levels in the operating environment. If oxygen levels become too low, the heater will automatically shut off to prevent carbon monoxide buildup. This feature is especially critical when using the heater in enclosed or poorly ventilated spaces.
- **Pilot Light Out Shut-Off:** If the pilot light extinguishes for any reason, the gas supply will be cut off automatically.
- **Altitude Operation:** When operating the heater at altitudes over 7,000 feet above sea level, the heater may shut off due to reduced oxygen availability. This is a safety mechanism.
- **Ventilation:** Always ensure adequate ventilation when operating the heater, especially indoors. Never use in

unventilated areas.

Your browser does not support the video tag.

Video: This video provides an overview of the Mr. Heater Big Buddy, including its safety features and operational aspects. It demonstrates how the heater functions and highlights its key attributes for users.

3. SETUP

Proper setup is essential for safe and efficient operation of your Big Buddy heater.

3.1 Fuel Connection

The heater can be powered by two 1-pound disposable propane cylinders or connected to a larger 20-pound propane tank using an optional adapter hose (sold separately).

- **1-Pound Cylinders:** Open the access doors on each side of the heater to screw in the 1-pound propane cylinders. Ensure they are securely tightened to prevent leaks.
- **20-Pound Tank (with Adapter Hose):** If using an adapter hose, connect it to the designated port on the side of the heater closest to the thermostat switch. Then, connect the other end of the hose to your 20-pound propane tank. Always check for leaks after connecting any propane source.

3.2 Fan Power (Optional)

The integrated fan can be powered by batteries or an AC adapter (sold separately). The fan helps to circulate warm air more effectively, enhancing heating performance.

- **Battery Operation:** Insert the required batteries into the battery compartment (refer to the full manual for battery type and installation).
- **AC Adapter:** Connect the AC adapter to the appropriate port on the heater and plug it into a standard electrical outlet.



Image: The Big Buddy heater in an outdoor setting, illustrating its use for heating open spaces.

4. OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

The Mr. Heater Big Buddy offers three heat settings for customized comfort.

4.1 Ignition

To ignite the heater, turn the control knob to the 'Pilot' position and press it in. Hold for a few seconds, then press the igniter button until the pilot light ignites. Continue to hold the knob for 30-60 seconds to allow the thermocouple to heat up, then release. If the pilot light remains lit, you can proceed to select a heat setting.

4.2 Heat Settings

Once the pilot light is established, turn the control knob to your desired heat setting:

- **Low:** Approximately 4,000 BTUs. Provides gentle heat for extended periods.
- **Medium:** Approximately 9,000 BTUs. Offers moderate heat output.

- **High:** Approximately 18,000 BTUs. Delivers maximum heat for rapid warming.

4.3 Estimated Runtime (using two 1-pound propane cylinders)

- **Low:** Up to 10.8 hours
- **Medium:** Up to 4.8 hours
- **High:** Up to 2.4 hours

When using a 20-pound propane tank with an adapter hose, expect runtimes to be approximately eight times longer than with 1-pound cylinders, depending on the fill level of the 20-pound tank.

4.4 Shutting Off the Heater

To turn off the heater, rotate the control knob to the 'Off' position. Close the valve on the propane cylinder(s) or tank when the heater is not in use.



Image: The Big Buddy heater in operation, emitting radiant heat.

5. MAINTENANCE

Regular maintenance ensures the longevity and safe operation of your Mr. Heater Big Buddy.

- **Pilot Light Assembly:** Periodically inspect and clean the pilot light assembly to ensure proper ignition and operation. Dust or debris can obstruct the pilot.
- **Heater Surfaces:** Keep the exterior surfaces of the heater clean. Use a soft, damp cloth to wipe away dust and grime. Do not use abrasive cleaners.
- **Storage:** When not in use, store the heater in a dry, protected area. Disconnect propane cylinders or tanks before storage.
- **General Inspection:** Before each use, visually inspect the heater for any signs of damage, loose connections, or obstructions. Refer to the complete product manual for detailed cleaning and maintenance procedures.

6. TROUBLESHOOTING

If you encounter issues with your Mr. Heater Big Buddy, consider the following common troubleshooting steps:

- **Heater Will Not Ignite:**
 - Ensure propane cylinders/tank are connected correctly and have fuel.
 - Check that the control knob is held in the 'Pilot' position long enough during ignition.
 - Inspect the pilot light assembly for blockages.
- **Heater Shuts Off During Operation:**
 - Verify adequate ventilation to prevent the low oxygen sensor from activating.
 - Check if the heater was tipped over, activating the tip-over safety switch.
 - Ensure propane supply is sufficient and not running low.
 - If operating above 7,000 feet altitude, this may be normal operation for the safety shut-off.
- **Weak or Inconsistent Flame:**
 - Check propane supply for low fuel or a partially closed valve.
 - Ensure connections are tight and free of leaks.

For persistent issues, consult the comprehensive troubleshooting guide in your full product manual or contact Mr. Heater customer support.

7. SPECIFICATIONS

Brand	Mr. Heater
Model Number	MH18B
Special Feature	Portable
Color	Black, Red
Form Factor	Floor Mount
Indoor/Outdoor Usage	Indoor/Outdoor
Product Dimensions	12"D x 17.5"W x 18.7"H

Heating Coverage	Up to 450 sq ft
Burner Type	Radiant
Fuel Type	Propane
Number of Heat Settings	3 (Low, Medium, High)
Item Weight	16.91 pounds
Manufacturer	ENERCO/MR. HEATER

8. WARRANTY AND SUPPORT

For warranty information, product registration, or technical support, please refer to the official Mr. Heater website or contact their customer service department. Keep your purchase receipt and product model number (MH18B) handy for any inquiries.