HOMECRAFT SAUNAS

North America's most trusted sauna heater

Apex

The Pinnacle of Great Heat

10kw (240v)
12kw (240v or 208v)
15kw (240v or 208v)
18kw (208v)

Homecraft Saunas is a family-run Canadian manufacturer dedicated to creating the best sauna experience possible. As North America's largest producer of sauna heaters, we design and build every heater and control system in-house, ensuring uncompromising quality, reliability, and performance.

Our mission is simple: craft beautifully engineered products that deliver great heat, abundant steam, and a timeless sauna experience that brings families together. Rooted in Canadian craftsmanship and driven by our passion for connection, storytelling, and memory-making, Homecraft Saunas is proud to set the standard for exceptional sauna heaters made right here in Canada.

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For Video tutorials & helps please visit our website (www.homecraftsaunas.com) or our Youtube channel.

Safety Warnings

General Warnings:

1. The use of alcohol, drugs, or medications is capable of greatly increasing the risk of fatal hyperthermia
2. Never leave small children unattended within the sauna room
3. Never place combustible materials on the sauna heater or within the unsafe distances to combustibles
4. If you have pre-existing health conditions consult a doctor before use
5. No receptacles shall be installed inside a sauna room
6. Prolonged use in a Sauna room could result in Hyperthermia. Symptoms include but are not exclusive to:
7. Failure to perceive heat / Failure to recognize the need to exit the room / Unawareness of impending hazard / Fetal damage in pregnant women / Physical inability to exit the room or unconsciousness.

Operational Safety Guidelines:

1. The sauna heater must have rocks placed correctly as per manufacturer's instructions. The Heater is never to be run without rocks.
2. Make sure enclosed elements are covered with stones, and the stones have sufficient spacing for air movement.
3. This Sauna Heater must be secured, with the provided safety brackets, to the floor for safe use.
4. Sauna doors must always open outwards, should never have a latch or lock that could cause entrapment Homecraft Doors use a safe roller latch.
5. Never touch a heater that is turned on and never place objects on top of the sauna heater.
6. The safety to combustibles for the Apex Sauna heater (10kw,12kw,15kw,18kw) is 5.5"
7. Always check to ensure the sauna heater is turned off after use. Yearly maintenance, cleaning, and regular inspection of the sauna rocks is important.
8. Ensure the correct, suitable breaker panel with a correct circuit breaker is installed to match the requirements of the sauna heater. GFI breakers may cause the heater to not function properly and are not recommended unless local code requires

Installing Safety Warnings:

HOMECRAFT HAS PROVIDED A METAL SAFETY LABEL AND SUPPORTING HARDWARE TO BE MOUNTED ON THE INSIDE OF THE SAUNA ROOM, ABOVE THE HEATER AT EYE LEVEL.

REDUCE THE RISK OF OVERHEATING MUST BE PLACED ON THE OUTSIDE OF THE SAUNA ROOM.

THE APEX

Sauna heater electrical specifications

Apex 240v 1Phase	Output 240v	Optimal Room Size (Cubic ft)	Amps	Circuit Breaker	Wire Size
Apex 10kw	10000w	400-575	41.6	50amp	8
Apex 12kw	12000w	450-750	50	70amp	6
Apex 15kw	15000w	600-950	62.5	80amp	6

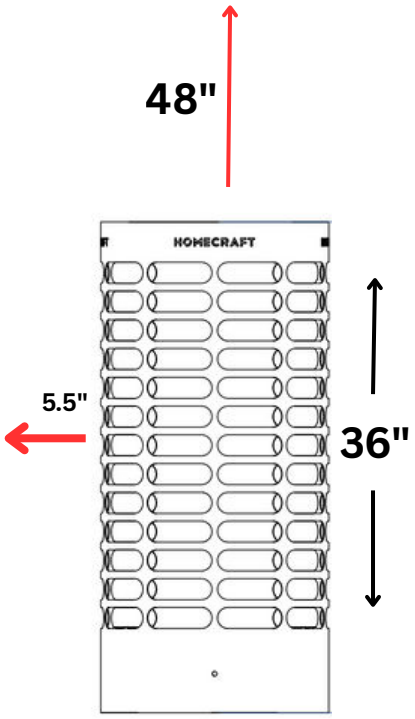
Apex 208v 3Phase	Output 208v	Optimal Room Size (Cubic Ft)	Amps	Circuit Breaker	Wire Size
Apex 12kw	12000	450-750	33.4	50	6
Apex 15kw	15000	600-950	41.7	60	6
Apex 18kw	18000	690-1150	48	60	6

Safety to combustibles	A	Minimum distance to ceiling	Height	Heater Size
Apex 10kw	5.5''	48''	36''	18'' x 36''
Apex 12kw	5.5''	48''	36''	18'' x 36''
Apex 15kw	5.5''	48''	36''	18'' x 36''
Apex 18kw	5.5"	48''	36''	18'' x 36''

THE APEX

Safety Distances: determined safety distances is from heater to any combustible material. A installed, non combustible heat shield will reduce the normal safety distances.

- Minimum 48" distance from top of the heater to ceiling
- 5.5" on any side of the heater to combustible materials
- The Apex is 36" is height



Ceiling Heat Shield:

- A Heat shield is required for combustible material ceilings at 7' with the 18kw Apex
- Remove the stainless steel protective film before Installation.
- Ensure the Heat Shield is directly above the heater with a proper 2'' sticking out beyond the 18'' diameter heater
- Take a minimum of 4 screws and secure the heat shield to the ceiling.

PLACING THE SAUNA HEATER ROCKS

Preparation:

- Use gloves to place rocks inside of the sauna heater as the heater can have sharp edges
- Remove the protective plastic on Stainless Steel before use
- Wash sauna rocks before placement inside heater

Type of Rocks:

- It is necessary to use igneous rocks in every Homecraft Sauna heater
- Rocks must not have fractures
- Rocks for the Apex should be between 3'' - 6'' in size

Placement inside Heater

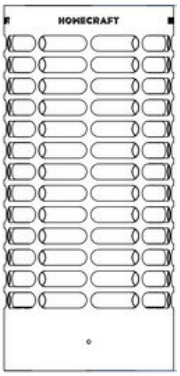
- Sort through your rocks and choose the larger rocks to be placed first
- Sauna rocks should be placed with space between them to ensure air proper airflow
- Rocks should be placed until the sauna heater is completely full or at minimum covering the element protetive cage
- Sauna rocks should withstand heat and heat variation caused by vaporation of water that is thrown on to the stones
- The use of improper stones that cause damage to the heater or elements may void warranty
- Sauna rocks should be reviewed every 12 months to ensure structural integrity and that the rocks are properly absorbing heat.

A Guide to your Apex

Maintenance:
Routinely check the inner heating elements to ensure that they are operating correctly.
Rocks will settle, become weaker or break down over time. Yearly inspect and re-arrange your rocks.

Heater Guard:
For Safety purposes it is necessary to install a Heater Guard safely around the Sauna heater that adheres to the proper safety distances to combustible materials. The Apex heater needs to have 5.5'' distance to combustible materials to ensure safe and proper use.

Towel Drape Guard:
For US customers to properly safeguard the sauna room from potential fires it is necessary to install the Homecraft Drape guard on the top of the sauna heater. This guard is designed to protect the sauna room from the potential of fires. The towel drape guard has 4 securing points that will align with 4 pre-drilled holes on the top of the heater. Align the "legs" of the drape guard with the correct 4 holes on the sauna heater and secure the drape guard in place. Install the towel drape guard after the heater is fully installed and the rocks have been placed inside the heater.



Ventilation:
We understand that each Sauna room is unique. Good ventilation is very important and needs to be considered in the construction of your sauna room. For more information on ventilation visit our website for recommendations and proper considerations.

Preparing for sauna heater installation

Check the following before installing the sauna heater:

Typical Sauna Set up and components from the Manufacturer

- A Homecraft heater set-up has 3 main components. 1) Heater 2) Contactor Box 3) Sauna Touchpad
- The Relay contactor box (Indoor & Outdoor options) contains a 24v class 2 transformer and relays, and a magnetic contactor that is prewired.
- 18/4 & 18/2 wires are supplied for connecting the touchpad to the contactor box and 18/2 wires for the Temperature sensor to the touchpad
- A low voltage Digital Sauna touchpad (that will mount to a standard 2-gang electrical box - NOT supplied) by which you set your time and temperature.
- Warning label package
- Temperature Sensor Package
- Mounting Hardware for certain heaters

Installation of the sauna heater: *All electrical must be done by a certified electrician

- Please ensure that the heater is properly sized for the sauna room and that the correct breaker and wire size is being used. (Sauna rooms with glass, masonry stone or poor insulation will adversely affect the sauna heater and it is recommended to check with the manufacturer to ensure you are properly sizing your heater.)
- The minimum ceiling height for the Apex heaters is 7'.
- Ensure the heater is correctly spaced from combustible materials
- Please take off the protective film before turning on the sauna heater
- **Use 90c copper wiring from contactor box to sauna heater**
- **Ensure enough slack in your main wire feed to be able to access the bottom of the heater when needed for maintenance or repair**
- The Sauna legs (4 provided with the Apex) are to be screwed into the bottom legs of the Apex.
- Place the rocks in the sauna heater once it has been properly installed and turned on for it's first cycle to burn off any residue from the heating elements. (Page 06)

If your heater won't turn on:

- Check that the electrical connections are installed correctly
- Take a multimeter and work your way to see where the power is failing
- If an error is reading on the touchpad see the troubleshooting page on the Homecraft website under resources

A GFCI breaker will adversely affect the heater. Moisture build up in the heating elements can trip the GFCI. CSA & UL do not require a GFCI to operate certified UL875 & CSA 22-22dede but always check with local code.

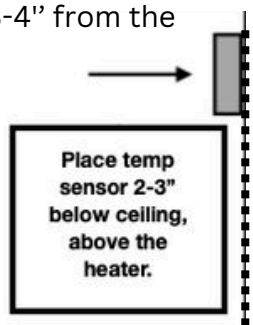
I**nstalling the Temperature Sensor:**

Find the package marked “Temperature sensor pack”. Inside is the small red “thermistor” or temperature sensor, screws, and the metal cover.

Purpose:
The thermistor / temperature sensor connects via the back of the sauna touchpad (probe marking) with the appropriate 18/2 wire.

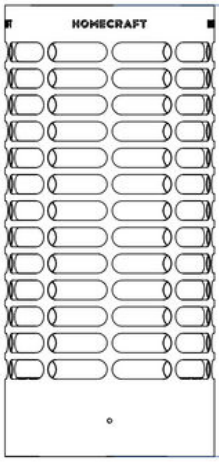
Placement:
CSA & UL regulations stipulate the Thermistor / Temperature sensor is to be placed in line with the heater (directly in line, above the heater) and should be placed between 3"-6" below the ceiling. If moved to far from the heater high limit tripping can occur.

Step 1: Attach the temperature sensor (red thermistor), to the supplied 18/2 wire. If you require a longer distance between the sensor and the sauna touchpad it is recommended to purchase sufficient length to have one continuous wire to the sensor.
Step 2: Be sure to run the 18/2 wire inside the insulated stud space in the sauna wall
Step 3: Leave sufficient slack in the 18/2 wire so that you can have the 18/2 wire sticking out of the wall to be able to easily connect the temperature sensor / Thermistor to the wire.
Step 4: The 18/2 wire should be connected to the sauna touchpad where it reads “probe” and run to the placement where the temperature sensor will be placed above or in-line with the heater 3-4’’ from the ceiling.



Warning: Improper placement of the temperature sensor can cause the heater to overheat or not function optimally. Placing the temperature sensor far away from the heater can cause the high limit to trip or compromise personal safety.

Middle Room Installations:
If the heater is installed away from the walls then it is necessary to install the temperature sensor above or to one side of the heater on the ceiling.



Heating the sauna for the first time:

- Remove the protective film on the sauna heater once it has been installed. Do not turn the heater on with the protective film or it wlll adhere to the heater, damaging it.
- Run the heater for a minimum of 45-60 minutes to cure or bake off the oils on the heating elements. There will be an odour that is emitted from the elements and you should air out the sauna room afterwards.
- Ensure the heater is properly in place and the rocks are installed correctly
- Every Homecraft Heater is approved and certified under CSA & UL

NOTE: ALL HOMECRAFT HEATERS SHOULD BE INSTALLED BY A CERTIFIED OR QUALIFIED ELECTRICIAN & IN ACCORDANCE TO LOCAL REGULATIONS

Installing the TKE2-2 (Apex 10kw) or TKE3 (Apex 12,15,18) Relay Contactor Box:

Every Homecraft heater should be purchased with the correct relay contactor box & Sauna Touchpad.

Components / Parts:

- 24-volt class 2 transformer
- Appropriately sized magnetic contactor
- Low voltage 18/4 (to wire the touchpad on 1 hour control set ups) & 18/2 wires for the temperature sensor.

Placement:

- The contactor box should be installed in a location that is accessible for servicing.
- Either outside the sauna room in a weatherproof electrical box, in a mechanical room or inside the studded walls with an accessible panel
- Never place exposed or in an area where the contactor box receives direct heat from the sauna heater

Connecting the sauna to the mains:

- Ensure the proper gauge copper wire is used for installation (Please see Page 4)
- Use only approved whip connectors from relay contactor box to heater
- The High limit manual reset switch must be wired into the circuit on all Apex 12kw, 15kw & 18kw heaters
- Unless local code requires do not use a GFI breaker to operate sauna heater

Homecraft Digital Control / Touchpad:

- The control will mount into a Standard 2 gang electrical box
- Every Homecraft touchpad is a class 2 - 24v low voltage control
- The 1 hour touchpads are precise and are made in accordance to CSA & UL regulation
- Each 1 hour control is preset to operate at 90c or 194f and can be adjusted by holding down the temperature buttons for 3 seconds
- Mount outside the sauna room in an area not fully exposed to weather (for outdoor saunas)

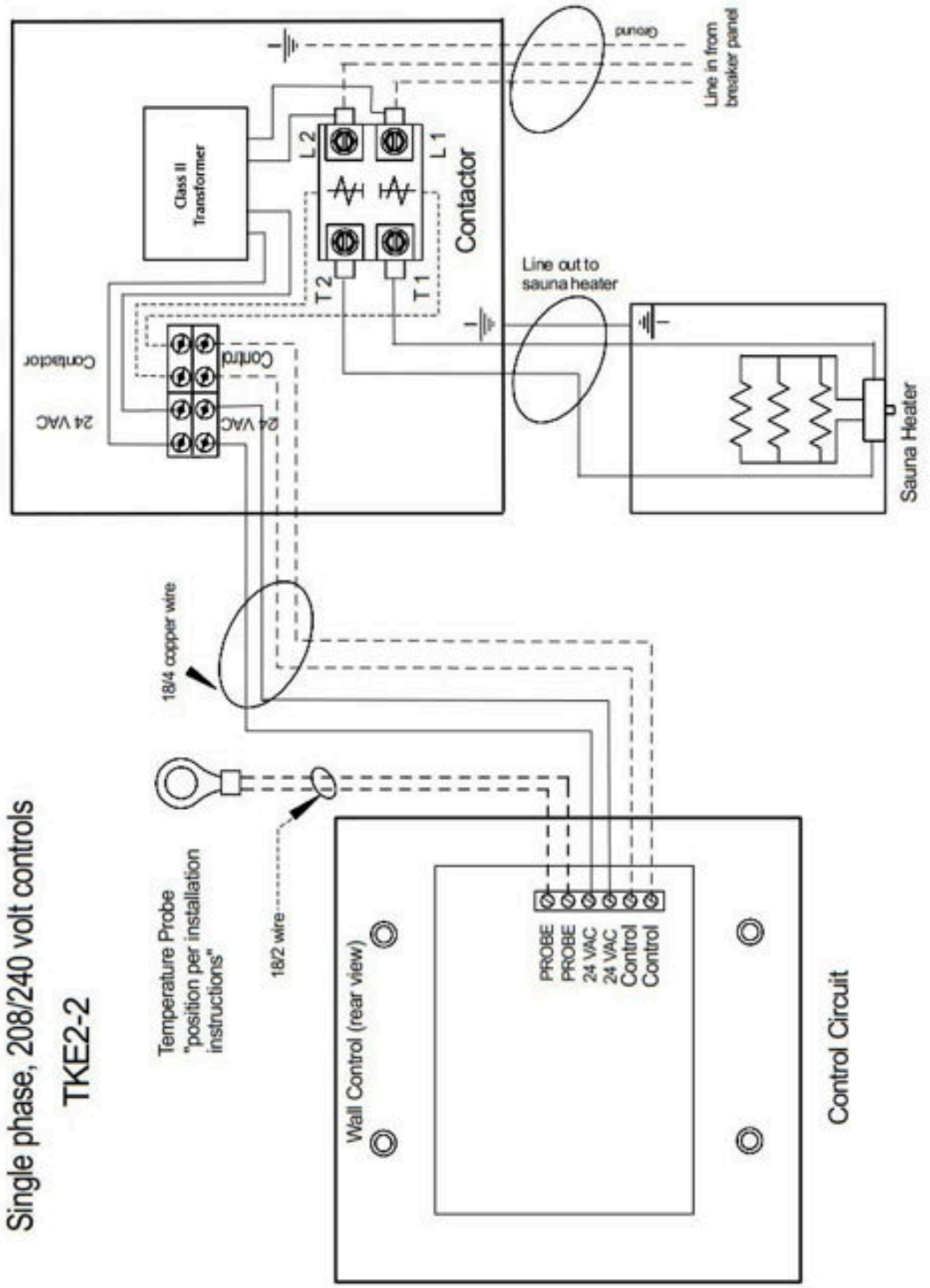
Manual High limit Switch

- Every Homecraft sauna heater is equipped with a thermal safety switch to prevent safe operational temperatures.
- The safety switch will shut off when / if the sauna heater overheats
- The safety switch can be found near the front lower portion of every heater and can be accessed via the small hole
- Place a small non-metallic object into the hole and you can reset the protruding tab when the high limit safety switch has tripped

Note: If the "reset safety switch" trips frequently, please contact a qualified serviceperson or reach out to Homecraft directly for assistance.
français: Si le limiteur de température à réenclenchement manuel se déclenche souvent, appelez un réparateur qualifié.

Wiring Diagrams

Tke2-2 with Apex 10kw

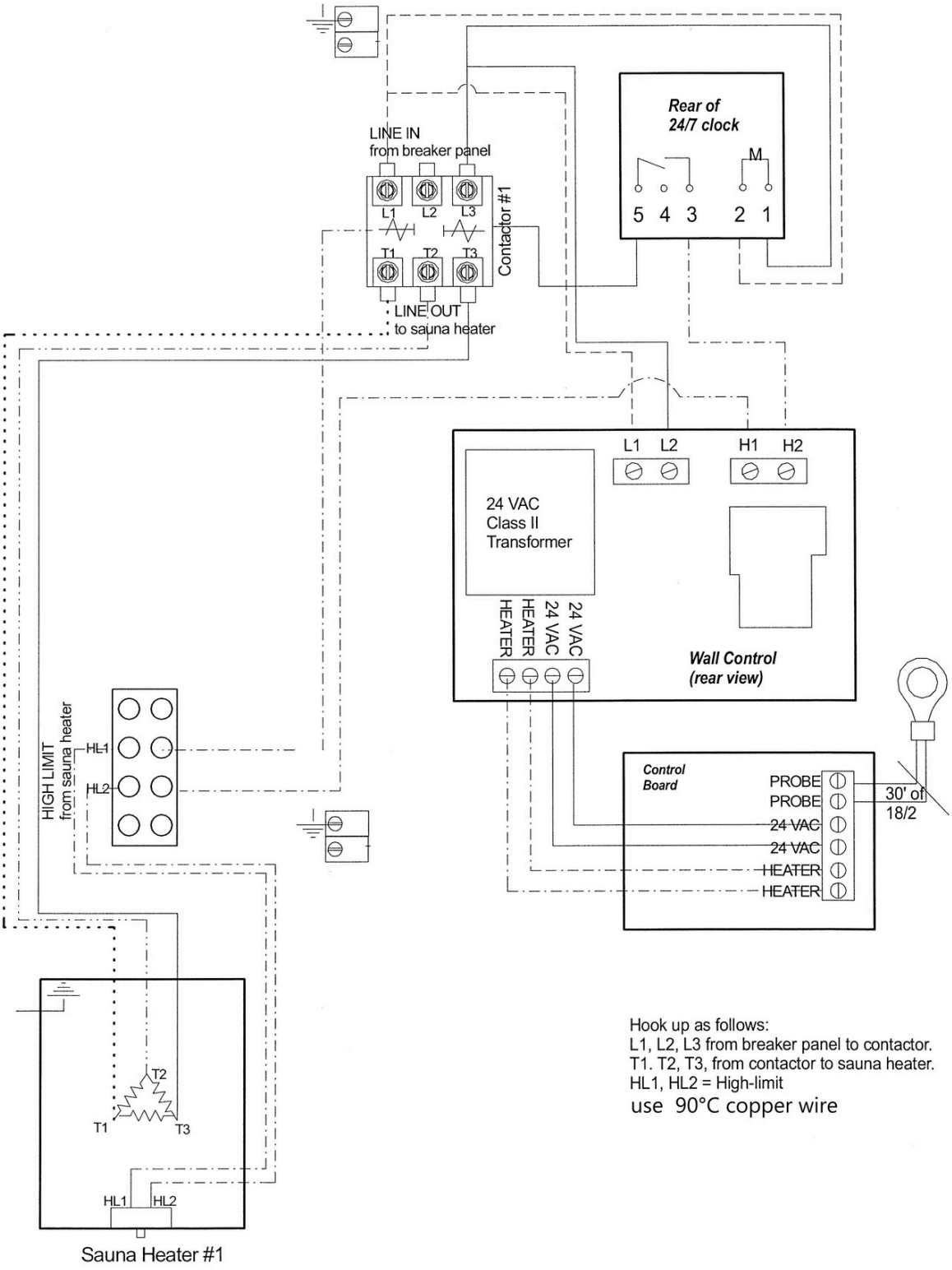


Wiring Diagrams

TKE24D pairs with any heater 240v or 208v (for 240v 1 phase use T1 & T3 and L1 & L3 (Outside polls)

- All Homecraft heaters from 12kw - 18kw need to wire in the high limit with a separate 14/2

TKE24-D prewired control for 1 heater in 1 room



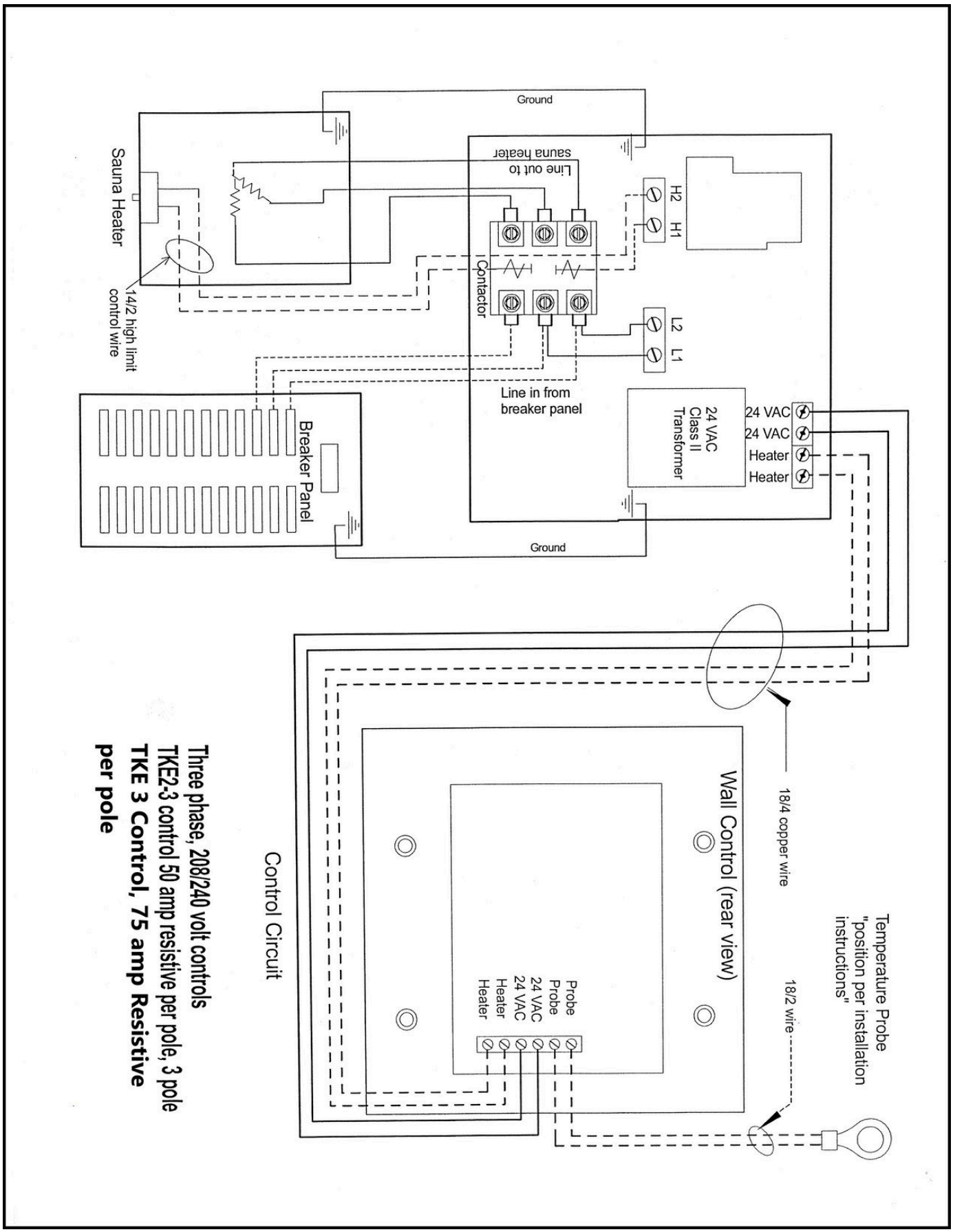
Hook up as follows:
L1, L2, L3 from breaker panel to contactor.
T1. T2, T3, from contactor to sauna heater.
HL1, HL2 = High-limit
use 90°C copper wire

TKE3 / Tke2-3 wiring set up

Tke3 pairs with any heater 240v or 208v (for 240v 1 phase use T1 & T3 and L1 & L3 (Outside polls)

TKE2-3 is for 3 phase heaters up to 15kw 208v 3 phase

- All Homecraft heaters from 12kw - 18kw need to wire in the high limit with a separate 14/2



Heater Warranty:

THE BUYER IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THOROUGHLY REVIEWING THIS USER MANUAL AND FOLLOWING ALL INSTALLATION AND OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS. FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THESE GUIDELINES, MISUSE OF THE SAUNA HEATER, OR ANY UNAUTHORIZED MODIFICATIONS WILL VOID THE WARRANTY.

WARRANTY COVERAGE (2 YEARS – MANUFACTURED COMPONENTS)
THIS WARRANTY APPLIES EXCLUSIVELY TO HOMECRAFT - ELECTRIC HEATERS THAT HAVE BEEN INSTALLED AND OPERATED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS MANUAL. IF A MANUFACTURING DEFECT IS CONFIRMED, THE BUYER MAY REQUEST REPAIR OR REPLACEMENT WITHIN THE WARRANTY PERIOD. ALL WARRANTY CLAIMS MUST BE SUBMITTED WITHIN THE VALID WARRANTY TERM SPECIFIED AT THE TIME OF PURCHASE.

WARRANTY LIMITATIONS
THIS WARRANTY DOES NOT COVER:

- HEATING ELEMENTS, AS THEY ARE CONSIDERED CONSUMABLE COMPONENTS.
- NORMAL WEAR AND TEAR ASSOCIATED WITH REGULAR SAUNA USE.
- COSTS RELATED TO ELECTRICIANS, INCLUDING DIAGNOSTIC TESTING, REWIRING, OR ANY ELECTRICAL WORK REQUIRED FOR INSTALLATION OR TROUBLESHOOTING.

WARRANTY EXCLUSIONS
THE WARRANTY IS VOID IF:
THE PRODUCT HAS BEEN DAMAGED DUE TO NEGLIGENCE OR IMPROPER HANDLING.
THE PRODUCT WAS NOT INSTALLED ACCORDING TO THE INSTRUCTIONS PROVIDED BY HOMECRAFT SAUNAS.
THE PRODUCT HAS BEEN MODIFIED, TAMPERED WITH, OR ALTERED IN ANY WAY.

FOR ASSISTANCE OR TO SUBMIT A WARRANTY CLAIM, PLEASE CONTACT HOMECRAFT SAUNAS CUSTOMER SUPPORT.

Terms of Use for all Homecraft Mfg Corporation (Homecraft saunas) products.

By purchasing, installing, or using a Homecraft Saunas heater or related product, the buyer agrees to the following terms of use.

Assumption of Risk Using a sauna involves inherent risks, including but not limited to burns, dehydration, slips and falls, property damage, personal injury, or death. By using the sauna and any Homecraft Saunas equipment, the buyer and all users acknowledge and accept full responsibility for all risks associated with sauna use. Limitation of Liability To the fullest extent permitted by law, Homecraft Saunas—along with its affiliates, employees, agents, and representatives—shall not be held liable for any injuries, health issues, damages, or losses arising from the installation, operation, misuse, or inability to use the sauna or heater. This includes, but is not limited to, bodily harm, death, property damage, or economic loss. Homecraft Saunas makes no express or implied warranties beyond those specifically stated in the product warranty.

Under no circumstances shall Homecraft Saunas be responsible for incidental, indirect, special, or consequential damages related to sauna use.

User Responsibility The buyer is solely responsible for: Reading, understanding, and following all installation, maintenance, and operating instructions provided in the product manual.
- Ensuring the sauna and heater are installed by a qualified professional in accordance with local electrical and building codes.
- Maintaining the sauna and heater in accordance with Homecraft Saunas' guidelines.
- Ensuring all users are informed of the risks associated with sauna use and that individuals with medical conditions consult a physician before using the sauna.
- Avoiding any modifications or alterations to the heater or sauna components. Any unauthorized changes void the warranty and may result in unsafe or hazardous operation.

Indemnification The buyer agrees to indemnify, defend, and hold harmless Homecraft Saunas from any claims, damages, liabilities, losses, costs, or expenses (including legal fees) arising from improper installation, misuse, or failure to follow provided guidelines. For technical support or warranty-related inquiries, please contact Homecraft Saunas Customer Support.

Thank You from Homecraft

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