

Boiler Thermostat



Control the temperature leaving the boiler to flow around the radiators and the indirect coil in the hot water cylinder. It prevents the boiler overheating. It alone cannot effectively control the room temperature although in some circumstances it can be the only thermostat present. Water needn't be scalding hot. Set your cylinder thermostat to 60°C/140°F. However if the boiler thermostat is the only temperature control, it is recommended that in winter it is set to

maximum (or high), and in summer between minimum and maximum (or low).

Bottled Gas Fires

An advantage of these is that they can be moved and they do not need a flue, but as a result all the water vapour produced by burning gas goes into the room. This makes the room humid and causes a lot of condensation, unless you ventilate the room very well. Contrary to popular belief bottled gas is one of the most expensive fuels for heating!!

Gas Fires and convectors

Wall convectors have the lowest running cost of all. They need to have adequate controls and they need to be the right size for the room to ensure you are warm enough without additional heating. Open style gas fires are nice to look at but a lot of heat is lost up the chimney. They are therefore inefficient and do not give you a great deal of heat for the money spent on fuel. If you have both gas central heating and a gas fire it is advisable to use the central heating system, instead of the fire, if it has good heating controls and used effectively.

Controlling Gas Heating Systems Effectively

By controlling your heating system more effectively you can:

- Improve comfort in the home
- Reduce your energy use therefore your fuel bills
- Avoid the risk of condensation
- Reduce your impact on the environment

Central Heating Controls

Time Switches / Programmers

These can be mechanical or digital and control the times at which the central heating and or hot water systems are switched on or off.

Timers – control one function heating hot water / space heating with a combination boiler.

Programmers – control more than one function, space heating and hot water.

Make sure the timer / programmer is telling the correct time. Remember when the clocks change in March and October you will need to reset the clock.



Set the times required for 'ON' and 'OFF' periods

The simplest timers have usually 2 on and off periods a day. E.g. ON 7am OFF 9am, ON 5pm OFF 10pm. Set these by sliding the knobs or 'tappets' around the face of a clock face timers, or pressing the buttons on a digital or electronic timer.

If the programmer has a number of setting periods (some have more than 6) set all these. If the programmer allows for different settings each day, either copy from the previous day set, or change the setting each day.

To enable you to establish the times required for your central heating, first consider the times you are actually in the property, and then establish how long the heating system takes to warm up your home to a level you feel comfortable with. Then how long it takes to cool down to a level where you feel you need to put the heating on again. This can vary depending on how efficient the heating system is and how well insulated your property is.

Labeling

ON / CONSTANT / CONTINUOUS / 24HRS – means the function is on all the time.

AUTO / TIMED / TWICE / ALL – means the programmer is following the automatic times set.

ALL DAY / ONCE – means the programmer will switch on at the first 'ON' time set, and off at the last 'OFF' time set, ignoring the times in between.

HOT WATER ONLY – the heating circuit will not operate.

OVERRIDE / ADVANCE – means the current phase can be overridden, bringing the next 'ON' or 'OFF' phase in earlier. The programmer will then revert back to its automatic operation.

1 HOUR / 2 HOURS / 3 HOURS – current phase interrupted by a 1,2,or 3 hour change e.g. extending the programmed phase - wanting the heating on for an extra hour but not all night.

Room Thermostat



Usually placed in the hall – it responds to the air temperature around it. They should not be placed where they can be affected by other sources of heat e.g. direct sunlight or in very cold places e.g. next to an outside door. When the room is warm enough the thermostat sends a signal to the boiler to stop so the water is no longer heated and pumped to radiators. Recommended room

temperature for vulnerable people (elderly or young children) is 21°C, if you are fit and healthy then 18°C is adequate.

Thermostatic Radiator Valves (TRVs)

They sense the air temperature around it and control the rate at which hot water flows through the radiator. They should not be placed in the same room as the room thermostat. They enable you to control the temperature for each room individually. Turn the TRVs down in rooms that are unoccupied to stop your boiler working harder than it needs to and to save money on your bills.

