

# UNDERSTANDING YOUR BOILER



Here are some key facts, tips and easy steps that can help you to manage your boiler and heating controls for a warmer, comfier home.

## FACTS, SAVINGS AND TIPS

In a typical UK household, more than half the money spent on fuel bills goes towards providing heating and hot water. As fuel costs rise, having an efficient and cost effective heating system is vital, and it's one of the main steps you can take to save energy and reduce your bills.

Use your controls to manage your heating. Room thermostats allow you to set and maintain the temperature at home. A programmer sets the heating to turn it on and off and thermostatic radiator valves enable you to control the temperature of each radiator, so you can manage the heat in each room as you use it.

Installing and using a full set of heating controls could save around **£75** a year<sup>1</sup>. You can find out more about managing your heating controls at [energysavingtrust.org.uk/domestic/thermostats-and-controls](http://energysavingtrust.org.uk/domestic/thermostats-and-controls)

If you have old electric storage heaters, upgrading them to modern slim line heaters with Celect controls or to high heat retention storage heaters could save between **£200** and **£415** on annual energy bills a year<sup>2</sup>.

For more information on managing electric storage heaters and to watch a helpful video on how best to work them visit [energysavingtrust.org.uk/domestic/electric-heating-systems](http://energysavingtrust.org.uk/domestic/electric-heating-systems)

## UNDERSTANDING DIFFERENT TYPES OF BOILERS

### CONDENSING BOILERS

If your boiler is less than 10 years old it's likely to be a condensing boiler. Condensing boilers are more efficient as they have bigger heat exchangers. You can also have combi or regular condensing boilers.

### COMBI VS REGULAR BOILER

Combi boilers (or combination) provide hot water directly, whenever it is required, and do not need a hot water cylinder. Gas, oil and LPG boilers may be combination boilers.

A regular boiler stores hot water in the cylinder until it is needed. The cylinder or tank is heated at times set by the programmer. A regular boiler is more efficient than a combi at heating water, but some heat is inevitably lost from the hot water cylinder, so a combi may be more efficient overall.

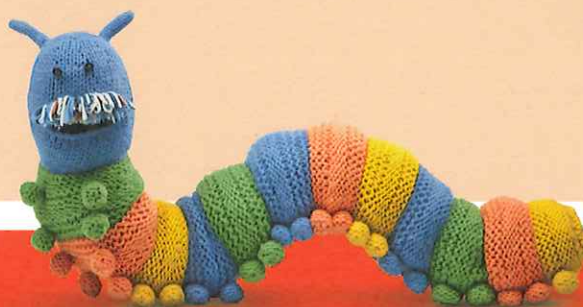
If you are still unsure about what type of boiler you have and how to use it, give us a call free on **0808 808 2282** or visit [energysavingtrust.org.uk/domestic/improving-my-home/heating-and-hot-water](http://energysavingtrust.org.uk/domestic/improving-my-home/heating-and-hot-water)



# LITTLE THINGS YOU CAN DO TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Use this checklist to make little changes to your energy use, which can make a big difference to your energy bills.

- Fit radiator controls and use them to control where and when you want heat – for example turning radiators off/down in rooms you don't use very much.
- Use your timer to manage when you need heat – allowing time for your home to heat up before needed and cool down before you go to bed/leave.
- We recommend you set your room thermostat between 18-21°C for a comfortable temperature.
- If you have a hot water cylinder, set the temperature to a minimum of 60 degrees. For combi boilers you can set the hot water temperature to a lower temperature to save energy.
- Make any insulation and draught-proofing improvements that you can to stop heat escaping.
- Have you checked if you are on the best energy tariff for your needs? Consider switching energy supplier and tariff. We recommend using the ofgem site to switch [ofgem.gov.uk/switching](http://ofgem.gov.uk/switching)
- Get your boiler serviced regularly, so it's working effectively. It's always a good idea to test your central heating is working, before it's needed.
- Are your radiators working to their full extent? A simple way to improve their efficiency is to bleed them to remove trapped air.



## HERE TO HELP

Home Energy Scotland is funded by the Scottish Government and managed by Energy Saving Trust to provide free, impartial energy advice.

For more energy saving tips and help with heating your home:

Call Home Energy Scotland on **0808 808 2282**

or visit [homeenergyscotland.org](http://homeenergyscotland.org)



**HAPPY TO TRANSLATE**

1. A full set of heating controls includes a programmer, thermostatic radiator valves and a room thermostat. This saving assumes no controls before installation and all new controls are fully used and correctly set. Based on a typical gas-heated three bedroom semi-detached home with gas tariff of 3.63p/kWh and electricity tariff of 14.33p/kWh.  
2. Based on a typical three bedroom semi-detached home with an Economy 7 off peak tariff of 8.08p/kWh. Lower saving range is for slim line heaters with Celec controls, upper saving range is for high heat retention heaters.

Correct as of April 2018. This information is available in large print, braille, or other languages on request.  
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