

# FACT SHEET



## Gas heating systems

This guide aims to provide you with the basic information needed to use your gas heating system. Using heating controls can:

- reduce the energy used and therefore fuel bills
- avoid the risk of condensation and dampness
- provide effective temperature control in your home.

### Why have controls on a gas heating system?

For a gas heating and hot water system to operate correctly it must be controlled so that heating and hot water are provided at a suitable temperature, when and where required.

### The boiler

The boiler heats up the water which is circulated through the radiators to provide heat. It also heats the water in the hot water tank. If your boiler is a 'combi' boiler, the water is heated instantly when the hot water taps are switched on. The thermostat on the boiler controls the temperature of the water in the system.

### Hot water tank

Most hot water cylinders have a thermostat. It is recommended this is set to 60°C. Hot water cylinders should be covered in an insulation jacket with a minimum thickness of 8cm to retain heat. This is not necessary if you have a modern cylinder with a foam cover.

### Radiators

Water is heated by the boiler which travels through the radiators, giving out heat.

### Thermostatic Radiator Valves (TRVs)

TRVs are found on some radiators. They sense the air temperature in the room and can be set to your own comfort levels. They usually have a fat valve at one end marked with a \* and numbers from 1 to 5. The \* setting is to protect against frost and will usually leave the radiator switched off unless the temperature falls below 6°C. For a living room, set your TRV to 3 or 4 and lower for bedrooms. TRVs can also be used to turn radiators off.

### Room thermostat

This is usually found in the living room or hallway of a home. It is recommended that it is set between 18° and 21°C. The room thermostat will respond to the temperature of the room where it is located. When the room is warm enough it sends a signal to the central heating pump to stop heating the radiators until the temperature drops below the set level. At this point they will come on again.

## Programmer or Timer

The programmer or timer is set to control the times when the central heating and hot water are switched on and off. The amount of time your heating is on depends upon your personal circumstances.

In order to wake up to a warm house, set the heating to come on 30 minutes before you get up. If you have your heating on in the evening, set it to go off one hour before you go to bed. This will account for the time it takes for a home to warm up and cool down.

To set the timer, please check the manufacturer's name and product code. This will be on the timer. Instructions on setting can then be found on the manufacturer's website or contact us on freephone 0800 111 4013.

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