

HEATING CONTROLS



Effective heating controls are a vital part of an efficient boiler-powered central-heating system. They can help you minimise energy consumption by ensuring each room is at the right temperature. This will keep your home cosy and cut your energy bills.

- Lower bills
- Lower carbon footprint
- Helps to keep your home at a comfortable temperature

For more information and advice, please contact Sarah Gill on 07720 098980 or sarah.gill@groundwork.org.uk

In more detail:

There are four main types of heating controls that can help you to save money on your heating, but not all controls will work with all heating systems.

Room thermostat – A room thermostat is set to the desired temperature and it will tell the boiler to come on until that room temperature is reached. Once reached, the thermostat will tell the boiler to go off again. These take the form of a digital display or a dial thermostat. This is a very simple system and can mean the boiler comes on and off all day to meet the room temperature unless you manually turn the temperature down.

Thermostatic radiator valves (TRVs) – allow you to adjust the temperature of individual radiators and turn them off completely.

Programmer – In order to automate the times at which the boiler comes on and off, then you will need a central heating programmer. A standard programmer will allow you to set the boiler to come on at the same times each day. If you want to set different times on different days, you will need a 'seven-day' programmable thermostat. Combi, heat only and system boilers are compatible with programmers but you will need to factor in hot water controls if you have a heat only or system boiler. A programmer for a combi boiler need only control the heating, as the hot water is instantaneous. If you wish to control your heating and hot water from a single control you will need a programmer with two channels: one to signal to the boiler to come on and one to control the hot water.

Smart thermostat – allows you to control the temperature in your home when you are not there, for example from your smartphone or tablet.

What does it cost?

The most expensive option is a programmer which generally cost £100-£200 depending on whether you choose one with smart functions. TRVs are the cheapest but will depend on the finish you want and how many you need but can be bought for as little as £10 each.

Can I install them myself?

It is recommended that a qualified heating engineer install any new controls, they can also supply the controls themselves and show you how to use it.

How much can I save?

You could save up to £75 a year by installing and correctly using a programmer, room thermostat and thermostatic radiator valves and an additional £60 per year by turning the room thermostat down by one degree.

Do new boilers come with controls?

Yes, if your boiler was installed after April 2018 then it will have be fitted with a programmable room thermostat and, for combi boilers, an additional energy saving measure such as weather compensation control. This is a mandatory requirement for all new boilers.

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