

ELECTRIC STORAGE HEATER GUIDE

How do Storage Heaters work?

Most storage heaters are wall-mounted and look a bit like radiators. They work by drawing electricity over the course of a few hours at night (normally between midnight and 7am during the winter months and between 1am and 8am during the summer, although this can vary) and storing it as heat in a 'bank' of clay or ceramic bricks to use the following day.



The advantage is that they can use electricity at night when it is cheaper and give out their heat many hours later. They work best if the household is on an Economy 7 tariff.

Understanding how to operate your storage heaters as effectively as possible will help you to stay warm and not waste energy.

Avoid using supplementary plug-in heaters or the convector button (found on some storage heaters). It is better to turn up the input on your storage heater to store more heat compared to plug in heaters and the convector button that use the expensive day tariff.

CONTROLS

Most storage heaters have two controls placed on the top right of the heater, sometimes under a flap.

- **The Input** control (sometimes called **Charge**) which controls how much heat is stored in the heater when it charges up overnight. This should be set higher in cold weather and turned down in warmer weather.
- The **Output** control (sometimes called **Boost**) which opens and closes the flap at the top of the heater to let heat out. This should be left on a low setting during the day and turned up in the evening if more heat is needed.

BEFORE GOING TO BED:

- Turn down the **Output** control to its lowest setting to stop heat being given out while you are in bed.
- Set the **Input** level - This will be dependent on what you think the temperature is going to be the next day. However Spring & Autumn should be low/med, Winter should be med/high. The higher the input the more electricity will be consumed and therefore a higher cost. You need to turn the input up if you need to charge the heater more because you were cold or because you know the next day will be colder. On the other hand, turn it down if you were too warm, or you know the next day will be significantly warmer.

Some heaters have an automatic output control where a thermostat controls the opening and closing of the flap depending on the room temperature.

You may have a storage heater combined with a convector heater (usually in the living room) – which operates independently to the storage heater and uses on-peak electricity. The switch for the convector heater element may have a red or orange neon indicator to show it's on. This is useful to provide a 'top-up' in very cold weather but it is not economical to use as your main source of heat throughout the warmer season.

If your house is warm enough in the summer, turn the heaters off at the wall – and back on again when it starts to get cold – remembering to turn them on again the day before you need the heating.

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