

FAQ Sheet



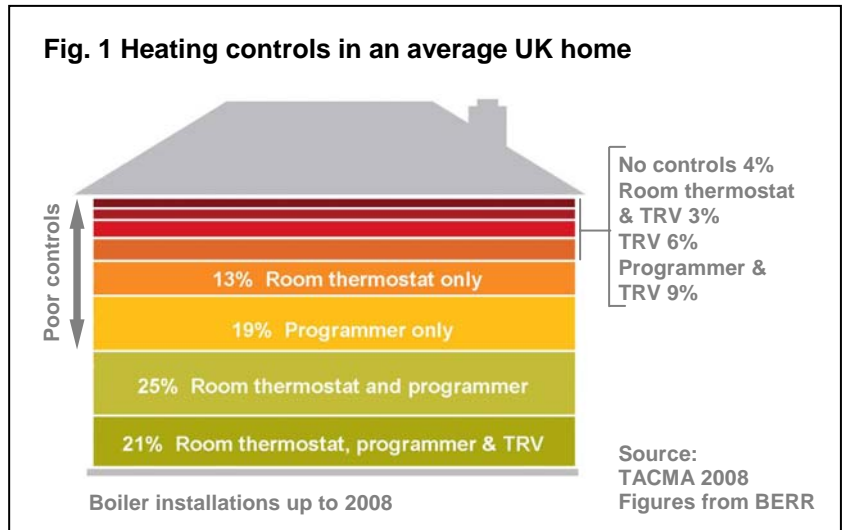
How can I add controls to my heating system?

Which controls do I need to have a complete heating system?

A complete heating system should contain:

- Room thermostat
- Programmer
- Thermostatic radiator valves (TRVs)
- Cylinder thermostat

Figure 1 represents Government figures (taken from a survey) of the heating controls in an average home. The diagram demonstrates that over half of the heating systems in homes are missing vital components. Only the two bottom green sections (46%) can be considered as approaching complete control systems.



How do I improve my heating system efficiency?

- Prevent waste
 - Only heat those areas where it is necessary. Zone off other areas and provide background (or setback) heating to prevent damp.
- Prevent overheating
 - Adjust your heating so that it does not overheat your home before you get up in the morning. This means that you need to check to see what the weather is likely to do each night and adjust the start time for the next day, or you can just fit a programmable room thermostat with Optimum Start. This learns the heat up characteristics of your home and adjusts the start time each day to suit the conditions.
- Make heat more efficiently
 - Modern condensing boilers need modern controls to help them to operate at higher efficiency. Advanced controls which use Time Proportional and Integral (TPI) control technology will help to keep the flow temperature returning to the boiler below the dew point (55°C) which means that the boiler can operate in its condensing mode more frequently. This is how the boiler becomes more efficient. How can this be done? By adding controls.

FAQ Sheet



How can I add controls to my heating system?

What is the Building Regulations minimum standard for controls?

A heating system should only burn fuel when there is a demand for heat from the boiler, either for Heating or Hot Water. When this demand is satisfied, then the boiler should switch off again, it should not be able to fire until a new demand is created by the controls. This is called Boiler Interlock and represents the Minimum Standard required under Building Regulations for new and existing heating systems. Building Regulations apply whenever a boiler or cylinder is changed in a heating system.

Both Heating and Hot Water should be controlled by both time and temperature (i.e, a programmer and thermostats). These should operate either motorised valves or the boiler (if it is a Combi).

Radiators should also be under the control of thermostatic radiator valves, except in the room where the room thermostat is fitted.

How do I meet the Building Regulations minimum standard?

Make sure that each part of the heating system is controlled by time and temperature.

For systems with stored Hot Water make sure you have a programmer fitted and a room thermostat and cylinder thermostat. These will operate motorised zone valves to control the heat from the boiler and switch it off when no further heat is required.

For Combi boiler systems make sure you have a time and temperature control for the Heating. The Hot Water is controlled when you turn on a tap.

If you have no room thermostat fitted it is easy to install one now, without chasing cables into walls. A wireless room thermostat can be sited for optimum performance without requiring any electrical connection. A receiver box needs to be connected to the other controls, this is best done by a heating professional.

How do I improve on the Building Regulations minimum standard?

The basic control principle of timer and room thermostat was developed over forty years ago. Despite changes in manufacturing methods this has not changed.

Nowadays, there are far better controls available:

- Programmable room thermostats -These combine time and temperature control in one product. They also allow for control to different temperatures at different times of day. More modern models also includes the advanced control functions of TPI control as well as temperature overrides for better performance.
- Wireless Zoning -Use CM Zone to split your system into zones (see FAQ sheet 'Wireless controls' for more information).

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