

What is the best way to use storage heaters?

The majority of storage heaters have a set of simple controls. Most storage heaters will only charge up at night, so there is no danger of using expensive day-rate electricity.

Modern storage heaters are equipped with advanced functionality to further reduce the cost of heating and include digital 7 day programmers, temperature control with presence detection or open window detection, distance control via an app, and adaptive start control to suit the requirements of the user.

Setting your storage heating controls

For most existing conventional storage heaters there are 2 main control dials; One for the electrical input and one for the heat output.

Input Dial –The input dial controls how much electricity is absorbed and stored by the heater during the night, ready to warm your home the next day. In the Autumn the first time you use your heating system, set the input control to between 4 and 6.

Output Dial – This is the setting that controls the level of heat released into the room. Typically this should be set at number 1 during the day when not so much heat is needed, then turned up in the evening to release more heat if it is required. Turning the output dial up will release more heat. When the heat runs out and the heater has no more heat to release, before going to bed return the output dial to 1. This means that the settings will be set to work correctly the following morning.

New Storage Heaters

On modern storage heaters the operation of the heating system is done using a digital controller which has the facility to allow the user to control the time and temperature.

Existing Storage Heater Operation

1. Storage heaters store heat which is generated at night. There is a separate meter that the consumer has and a separate sealed timeswitch supplied by the ESB, or by using a DEVI REG 710-2 Controller. To stop this heat dissipating immediately (during the night), the storage heater unit has an insulated housing.
2. To control the amount that we heat the bricks up to, we use the thermostat (Input Dial, situated at top or side of heater). This is a trial and error setting as it is relevant to the insulation properties of the building and heat required. When the property is vacant, and dampness needs to be avoided, set both the input and output low.
3. To control the amount of heat we let out of the heater, we use the Output Dial (mechanical flap). This should ideally be closed (output set low) during the night. When the flap is open (output set high) during the night, then the bricks are constantly releasing heat, so the thermostat does not control the input and you are constantly paying.

The ideal setting for the flap is to have it closed during the night, and to be opened gradually during the day, as the heat is required. (please note, that if the area is still cold at night, with the input set high, you should open the flap slightly (output set low/medium)).

4. Combination heaters have a separate convector heater, stuck on to the front of the storage heater, and run only on the high ESB tariff, day or night. Their thermostat reacts to the heat that is directly around the storage heater.

5. Modern storage heaters have a digital display to set the heating schedule. The controls now include features such as menu options, boost and advance timers, holiday times and child locks.