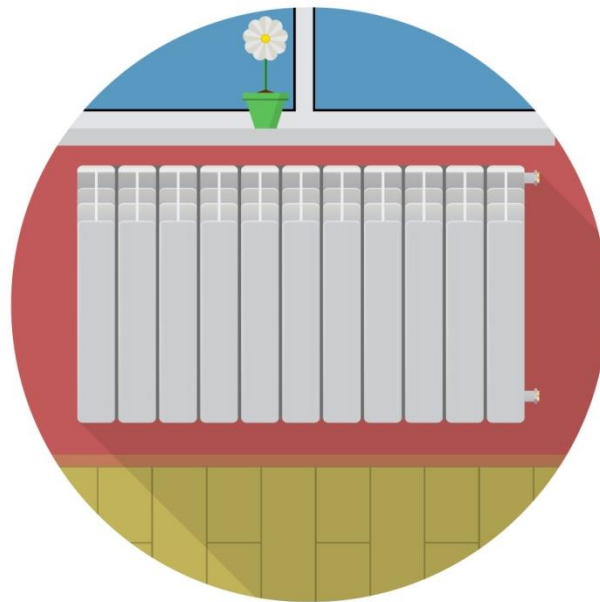


# Night Storage Heaters



Your guide on how to make the most of  
your night storage heaters

# Night Storage Heaters – how to make the most of your night storage heaters

This booklet sets out Sandbourne Housing Association's approach to getting the most out of using your night storage heaters.

If you have any problems or queries regarding yours, please contact the Housing Maintenance Team at the registered office (details on page 3).

## What is night storage heating?

Night storage heaters work by storing up heat overnight in the special bricks in each heater, then releasing that heat gradually throughout the day.

The advantage of this is that, as the most energy is used over night when the electricity rate is normally at its cheapest, the heaters are more efficient to run.

The disadvantage is that unless this heat is used carefully during the day, the heaters will be cold by the evening.

## What is classed as overnight?

Economy 7 cheaper rate period – typically lasts for 7 hours between 10 pm and 8.30 am, but that period can vary. Most variations depend on the type of meter and the electricity supplier.

Example: SSE = between 11.30 pm – 7.30 am in the Winter and 12.30 am and 8.30 am during British Summertime.

## How do they work?

The heaters should start charging automatically each night without the need to switch them on (providing the input is above '1'). However, the temperature can be adjusted by two dials (usually found at the top or on the side of the heater). One should be marked '**input**' and the other '**output**'.

(If the labels have rubbed off, look through the grill of the heater and move each dial in turn and see which one moves the flap inside. That dial is the 'output' dial.)

## **What does the 'input' control do?**

The 'input' dial controls how much electricity is absorbed into the bricks overnight and therefore how hot the heater gets. Typically, this should be set between 4 and 6.

If the weather is cold turn this dial up, if the weather is warm turn it down.

## **What does the 'output' control do?**

The 'output' dial controls how quickly the heater releases the heat. This should be set as low as possible during the day and whenever the property is empty. If the 'output' is above 3 all day, you will have run out of heat by the evening. By having the output low during the day, it can then be turned up in the evening, if needed.

Remember to turn the output down again before you go to bed, or you will have no heat by the next day.

## **What about the 'boost'?**

Some heaters (usually the larger ones) also have a 'booster' switch which provides instant heat. You should only use this when the heaters are completely cold, as it may be expensive to use.

## **Are there any 'tricks of the trade'?**

When a night storage heater is used for the first time after being unused for more than a month, it normally needs three nights' charge to bring up its efficiency again. During this time, try to keep the input as high as possible and the output as low as possible to 'charge' the bricks. After this time you can start to adjust the input/output dials a little to better suit your needs.

## What about in the summer?

Turn both dials to the lowest setting in the summer to stop the heaters coming on.

## Any other tips?

As night storage heaters cannot produce instant heat, only adjust the dials by 1 or 2 settings per day to avoid them being left on with too much heat on warm days or with not enough heat on cold days.

## Remember!

You must never cover a heater or put anything against it! Apart from the risk of starting a fire, each heater is fitted with a safety cut-out which shuts the heater down automatically if it overheats.

## Need more information?

You can:

Write to us at our registered office:

Beech House, 28-30 Wimborne Road, Poole, BH15 2BU

Email: [info@sandbourne.org.uk](mailto:info@sandbourne.org.uk)

Website: [www.sandbournehousingassociation.org.uk](http://www.sandbournehousingassociation.org.uk)

Telephone: 01202 671222

Please note that telephone calls to the registered office number above may be recorded for information and training purposes.

In addition, we do have a range of other leaflets on specific topics, available on our website or upon request from our office.

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