

Kirklees *Housing*



How to get the most out of your Economy 7 storage heaters

Stay warm - stay healthy



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In order to get the best use from this heating system you must use the weather forecasts and decide what your heating needs will be for the next day. A storage heater cannot produce instant heat but if the controls are set correctly it can often provide adequate levels of heating for a length of time.

How to set the controls

Input - 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. The first time you use your heater set this control between 4 & 6. You will then have to decide if it was too hot or too cold and does this dial need adjusting. The best setting for your home & life style will be found by experience.

Output - This is also known as the room temperature boost control. Normally this should be set at number 1 during the day and turned up in the evening for a boost if it is required. When this control is left at number 1 the heat stored during the night is emitted gradually through the day. As the stored heat reduces, the surface temperature of the heater becomes colder, at this point turning the output to a higher setting allows the remaining heat to be released. Remember to return the setting to number 1 before going to bed as this will allow the storage heater to work correctly the following morning. Using the output in this way enables you to use all the heat that has been stored and reduces unnecessary use of fuel.

The weather - During the Winter and Summer predictions can be made about how much heating you will need but in the Spring & Autumn it can be more difficult, as temperatures vary on a daily basis. This means that if you know the temperature is going to fall the next day you must turn the output dial to a higher setting to make sure there will be enough heat to keep you warm, alternatively if a warm spell is due turn down the output control.



How do I know if my hot water is heated by Economy 7?

There are several clues which will tell you if your hot water is heated by Economy 7.

They are:

- There will be two thermostats and two cables attached to your hot water cylinder. One at the top and one at the bottom.
- Your electricity meter will have two sets of dials or numbers to read. The meter may also be white.

Your hot water is heated using electricity on an “off-peak” tariff known as Economy 7. This tariff provides you with cheaper rate electricity from 12.30 am until 07.30 am.

The aim is to heat as much water as possible with cheaper rate electricity to minimise the use of the more expensive daytime rate for topping up the hot water supply. The most effective thing you can do to reduce the cost of your hot water is to ensure that you have a modern hot water cylinder insulation jacket. If you do not think that your insulation jacket is effective then you should contact the Energy Unit as you may be eligible for a free cylinder jacket.

The Energy Unit recommend that the hot water cylinder thermostats are set to 60 °C/ 140 °F for efficiency in most properties, but it will depend upon how much hot water you are using. If you find that you are having to boost your hot water throughout the day-time it may be worth considering increasing the temperature of your cylinder thermostats. The Energy unit can visit your home to do this for you.



What exactly is ECONOMY 7?

It is the tariff that provides cheaper electricity for everything used throughout 7 hours at night. Electricity used on the night rate of the Economy 7 tariff costs less than half of today's normal domestic rate.

What exactly is “night”?

It is continuous 7 hour period between 12.30 midnight and 7.30am during the winter and 1.30am and 8.30am during the summer, but local circumstances can vary these times slightly.

What about the higher cost of the day rates compared with General Domestic Tariff?

Yes daytime electricity and standing charges are slightly higher but remember any appliance used at night will benefit from the lower rate. Your heating and water heating systems have been specially designed to take advantage of the lower night rate.

Save energy and money
contact the Energy Unit on:
01924 324726

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