HEATING CONTROLS GUIDE

Heating controls help to keep your home warm, without wasting energy through over-heating your home. Through proper use of these controls, you could save money on your heating bills and reduce your carbon emissions.

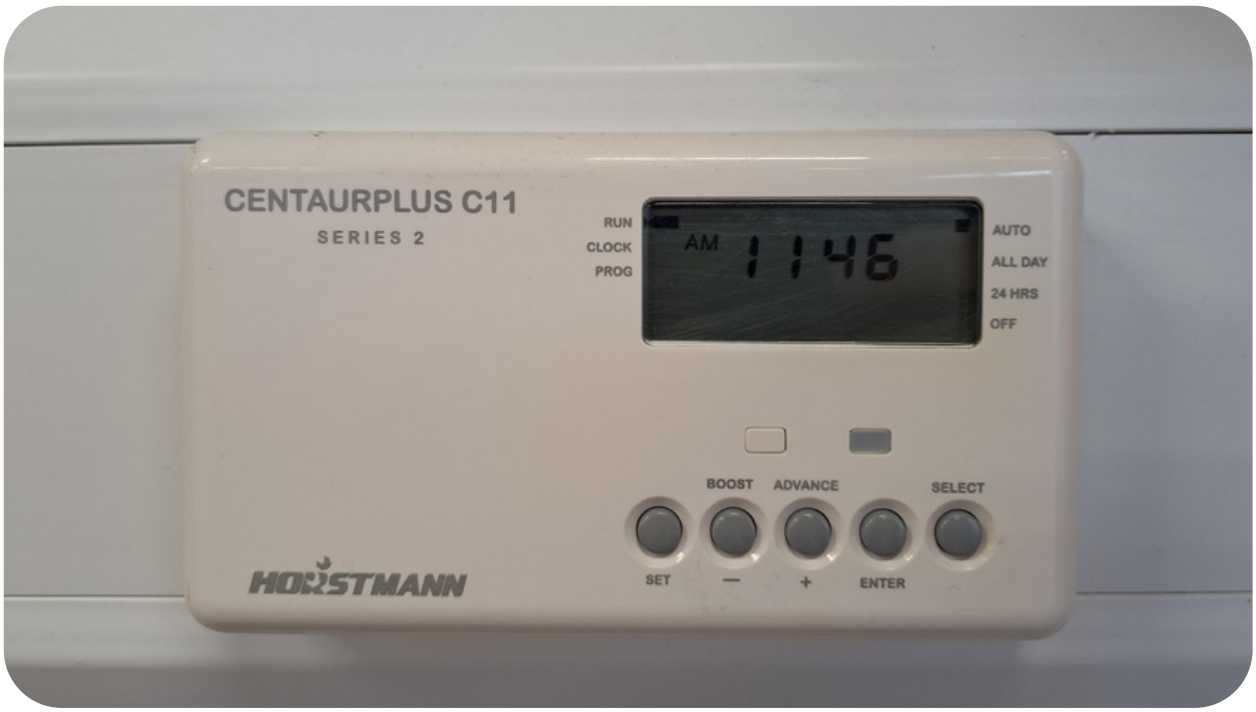
If your home has a wet heating system, then you should find that you have a number of heating controls within your home, which will vary for a number of reasons, however, the most common ones are detailed below.

PROGRAMMER (TIME CONTROL)

Many homes will have a programmer installed which allows you to determine when you would like your heating to come on. This programmer may also allow you to set when you would like your hot water to come on if you also have a hot water cylinder in your home.

A programmer will allow you to set a number of heating periods throughout the day, and often allowing you to replicate this across a full week. It is important that you consider when your home is likely to be occupied when you are setting your heating periods.

Your programmer may also have a 'Boost' button which will allow you to boost your heating for an hour or more during the day. Similarly, it may also have an 'Advance' button which will allow you to either bring your heating on earlier or switch it off earlier than the set times on your programmer.



ROOM THERMOSTAT

Some homes will have a room thermostat installed which is normally in the living room or the hallway. Room thermostats prevent your home from getting warmer than necessary. They heat the room up to the set temperature and once the room reaches that temperature, the thermostat will turn the heating off until the temperature drops.

Your thermostat should be set to the lowest comfortable temperature, which for majority of people is between 18-21¡C. If your thermostat controls your whole house, for every degree that you reduce your thermostat by, this could save you up to 10% on your heating bill. If you have more than one thermostat and one of these regulates the temperature in your bedrooms, it may be more comfortable to reduce this thermostat to around 18¡C.

On colder days, it may take longer for your home to reach the required temperature so when coming into the winter months, you may want to set your heating to come on a bit earlier than normal.

THERMOSTATIC RADIATOR VALVES (TRVS)

Thermostatic Radiator Valves control the flow of hot water within the radiators they are fitted to. They usually have settings between 0 and 6, and you should aim to have these set to the lowest setting that keeps the room at your desired comfort level.

A very common misconception is that if the radiator is cool that there is a fault with your heating system, which is not the case. Once the room has reached the required temperature the TRVs will regulate the temperature by limiting the flow of hot water through the radiator by closing the valve, thus cooling the radiator. If the room temperature is too low, the TRVs will open the valve to increase the flow of hot water through the radiator.

Having a radiator cover over the radiator can prevent the TRV from getting an accurate room temperature. The cover will trap heat generated from the radiator and will mean that the TRV thinks the room is warmer than it actually is. It is therefore advised, where possible, to not have a radiator cover.

HOT WATER CYLINDER THERMOSTAT

If you have a hot water cylinder thermostat fitted, it should be set to 60 degrees. This is the minimum temperature the thermostat should be set to in order to kill off any harmful bacteria in the water, but you should be careful as it is also hot enough to scald.

BOILER CONTROLS

If you have a boiler in your home, then it will usually be fitted with its own built-in controls, which will vary depending on the type of boiler. If you make any changes to the controls on your boiler, it will affect the temperature of your radiators, and also the temperature of your hot water, which could pose a health risk. We would therefore recommend that you do not make any changes to these settings.

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