

Advice for Programming and Managing Your Central Heating

Please familiarise yourself with the various central heating controls and ensure that the heating is well managed. Poorly managed central heating can quickly lead to very large gas bills. For the boiler to operate efficiently please follow these instructions:

- a. **CLOCK:** set the boiler clock to the correct time – don't forget when the clocks move forward or back – not necessary for WiFi thermostat/programmers which update the time automatically.
- b. **PROGRAMMER:** ensure that the central heating is set to come on automatically only when needed using the programmer.

BOILER PROGRAMMING TIPS:

- **USE RESIDUAL HEAT:** set the central heating to go off 30 minutes to an hour before you leave the property and before you go to bed as the residual heat will keep the house warm for this period.
- **USE THE OVERRIDE / ADVANCE BUTTON** – not applicable for WiFi based thermostat/programmers: if you wish to have the heating on during an Off cycle, for example if you return from work early, it is better to press the central heating Override or Advance button (if available) rather than switching off the programmer and placing the central heating on permanently. This is because the Override button will simply advance the boiler to the next on position within the timer program, but then keep it functioning within the normal programmer cycle. However, if you switch the boiler out of programme mode and onto permanent, it's easy to forget and leave the boiler running continuously and unnecessarily. You can also press the Override / Advance button to turn off the central heating if you are leaving early and it's no longer necessary to heat the house.

For WiFi Smartphone App based programmers simply override the programme by turning up the temperature on the thermostat on the wall or via the app.

- c. **ROOM THERMOSTAT:** ensure the main thermostat, is set to a suitable target temperature (typically between 18 and 21 degrees). The thermostat is normally located in the living room on the wall and also accessible by smartphone if a WiFi version. The thermostat switches the central heating off when room temperature reaches the target temperature. This ensures the central heating is not running unnecessarily and inefficiently so don't set this too high. It's most efficient to set it as low as possible – provided that this still results in a comfortable temperature. Small reductions by just a couple of degrees can result in significantly lower gas bills.

NOTE: Setting the thermostat to a higher temperature will not heat the house up quicker – it will just make the house too hot and lead to significantly higher bills. It definitely does not need to be set above 21 degrees. If you want to get the house to warm up quicker you need to turn up the dial on the boiler which controls the temperature the water is heated to – 60 degrees Celsius is normal – though you may prefer it higher when it is very cold (possibly in January and February)

- d. **CENTRAL HEATING WATER TEMPERATURE:** this needs to be set to a suitable temperature. The temperature for the water being sent to the radiators is set on the boiler control panel. This is typically set to between 60 and 70 degrees Celsius. However, during very cold periods you can turn it all the way to 80 degrees. If you set it too low, such as at 50 or 55, thinking that this will save money, the boiler will probably struggle to heat the house and will run continuously and inefficiently contrary to your intentions.
- f. **KEEP RADIATORS UNCOVERED:** ensure all radiators are free to convect and radiate heat so please **DO NOT LEAVE A TOWEL ON YOUR RADIATOR** as this greatly reduces the heat output from the radiator to your room and the efficiency of the central heating. Towels on radiators = wasted boiler effort.
- g. **LOCALISED CONTROL / THERMOSTATIC RADIATOR VALVES:** for localised room level control each bedroom has a thermostatic radiator valve – please **DO NOT** use the valve on the opposite side of the radiator to turn it off. This is known as the lockshield valve and is used to balance the central heating.
- h. **OPEN YOUR CURTAINS** before you leave home and allow sunlight to **HEAT YOUR ROOM FOR FREE!**

FROST CONTROL: If you are all leaving for Xmas and the New Year, please ensure that the central heating is left on or set to Frost Control by leaving the central heating on permanently with the Room Thermostat in the living room set to 10 degrees. Failure to do so could lead to frozen water pipes which could then burst causing flooding and extensive damage to the property and your possessions.

RADIATOR BYPASS: Finally, **DO NOT** turn off **ALL** the radiators in the house. This can damage the boiler if the central heating is activated because the pump will attempt to force water around a closed system and start a knocking noise. It is necessary to leave at least one radiator on to allow a bypass which is why bathroom and kitchen radiators usually do not have thermostatic radiator valves to ensure that they are left turned on.