

Contact us:

Tel: 0115 917 7777

E-mail: housingrepairs@broxtowe.gov.uk

Website: www.broxtowe.gov.uk/repairs

Or write to us at the address below



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Electric Night Storage HEATERS

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



getting it right first time

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Electric night storage heaters

HOW DO THEY WORK AND HOW TO GET THE BEST FROM THEM

Night storage heaters work by storing up heat overnight in bricks in each heater, then releasing the heat gradually throughout the day. The advantage of this is that as most energy is used overnight when the electricity rate is at its cheapest (I.E economy 7); the heaters are efficient to run. The disadvantage is that unless this heat is used carefully during the day, the heaters will be cold by the evening.

If controlled by an economy 7 clock the heaters should start charging automatically each night (normally around 11.30pm to 6.30am) without the need to switch them on with one of the isolation switches on the wall (and providing the input dial on the heater is set above 1. However the temperature can be adjusted by the two dials normally found on top of the heater. One should be marked “input” and the other “output”.



Typical control layout showing input and output controls.

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.

The “output” dial controls how quickly the heater releases the heat. It works by opening or closing a flap inside the heater to allow more or less surface area for heat to escape from the bricks. 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. If the labels have rubbed off the dials, 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.

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

Some of the heaters, more commonly used in communal areas of sheltered schemes have a booster switch; this means the unit has a convector heater built into the storage heater. This will provide instant heat in case you run out in the evening however it's not a good idea to use it often as it is runs off the daytime meter so the electricity will be more expensive.

A USEFUL THING TO REMEMBER.

When a night storage heater is used for the first time after being unused for more than a month, it needs three nights charge to bring up its efficiency again. During this time, try and 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 you.