REMEMBER

If you smell gas:

PHONE: 0800 111 999

Do not smoke or strike matches

Do not turn electrical switches on or off

Do put out naked flames

Open doors and windows

Keep people away from the affected area

Turn off the meter at the control valve

Help us to protect you and your family by providing us access to service and maintain your gas appliances

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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This document is available in large print upon request

Other leaflets you may find helpful:

Gas Servicing

Gas Safety

Radiator Problems

Hot Water Safety

Broxtowe Borough Council - Housing Repairs
'getting it right first time'

Broxtowe Borough Council
Housing Repairs, Council Offices,
Foster Avenue, Beeston
Nottingham, NG9 1AB

Broxtowe Borough COUNCIL

Re-pressurising my Central Heating SYSTEM

Most combination boilers and many standard boilers are now installed as Pressurised Systems.

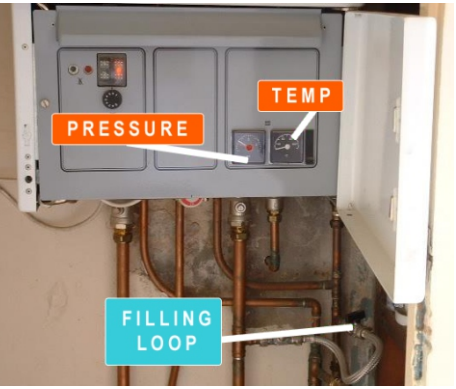
Re-pressurising my central heating system

Combination boilers differ from the previous conventional boiler systems, which were reliant on a water tank (often in the loft) with a ball float device to maintain water levels within the system. As the self filling water tank is omitted, a pressurised system requires filling manually via a filling device, (a 'filling loop'). This allows a specific amount of water to be injected into the system via your mains cold water supply.

The water pressure within your heating system is distinct from the pressure in your hot or cold water taps. The pressure in your mains cold water taps comes direct from the water mains and is maintained by your water company. The pressure in your hot water taps is created by the head of water in your heating cylinder, or from the pump feeding your hot water supply.

HOW CAN YOU TELL WHAT THE CURRENT SYSTEM PRESSURE IS?

Every pressurised system, regardless of the type of boiler (combination boiler or standard system), will incorporate a pressure gauge, which you can read. This pressure gauge is the device with which the system water pressure in your boiler and radiators is monitored.



To maintain the system in a healthy condition the pressure gauge should be checked monthly. If when you check it, you find that the system pressure has fallen please follow the steps below to re-pressurise your system.

Your central heating system manual will advise of the pressure that your system runs at. Most systems should be pressurised to between 1 and 2 bar.

TOPPING UP THE SYSTEM PRESSURE

To top up your system and increase the pressure, you will need to locate your filling loop. It usually resembles a plastic tap and is connected to the central heating system by a flexible hose. Occasionally you may find that one end of the metal hose is not connected to the pipe work on your system. There may be a cap on the end of the pipe and it will need to be connected to the system to allow the water to be injected.

To connect the filling loop to the system, simply remove the cap from the end of the pipe work and attach the metal hose. You will then need to tighten this connection with your fingers, do not over-tighten with a spanner.

Sometimes this filling device may be hidden, behind a panel near the boiler or perhaps inside a cupboard below the boiler. It will always be somewhere close to the boiler or cylinder, as it needs to be able to connect to the boiler pipework.

Another issue in finding the filling loop may be that some filling devices are an integral part of the boiler, you should have been advised of this by the installer and you will need to refer to your boiler manual for the exact manner in which this system is re-pressurised.

To fill the system, use the tap you have located to open and close the filling loop. When the tap is opened it will allow fresh water to flow into your central heating system. As this happens you will hear the water passing through the valves into the system. It is recommended that you open the valve slowly to allow the system to fill up gradually. When you do this a steady increase in pressure will be seen on the pressure gauge in the same way as you would see an increase on a car tyre gauge if you were inflating a tyre.

If you cannot see your pressure gauge while filling the system it is a good idea to have a friend look at it for you while you are turning the tap. When the recommended pressure is reached close the valve by turning it in the opposite direction to which you opened it.

There is no need to worry if your system does accidentally become over pressurised. All modern systems are designed with safety in mind and a pressure safety valve is incorporated into the plumbing. This acts like an overflow pipe releasing the excess pressure and allowing the system to revert to the recommended levels.

The safety valve may make a noise as it releases this excess pressure sounding like a thumping noise, again do not worry, this sound will stop when the system pressure reduces to a lower level. If the system is free from leaks the water pressure should remain constant within the system in future months. If you notice that the pressure regularly falls you may have a water leak.

Bleeding a radiator will sometimes cause the pressure to drop on the boiler. As a result after bleeding your radiators you should remember to check your pressure gauge and refill the system as required.

Random water leaks will cause pressure loss within a pressurised central heating system and the severity of water leaks can vary. Very small leaks will cause pressure drops over a long time, possibly several months or even a year. Leaks of this magnitude may not be detectable as the water evaporates quite quickly although you may spot some residue following evaporation of the water.

Larger leaks may be more visible and will mean your system will require filling as frequently as once or twice a week. If this is the case you should check your system for leaks when it is cold paying particular attention to the areas around radiator and boiler valves. It is recommended that you check for leaks when the system is cold as heat causes expansion and can seal small leaks temporarily.

If you identify any leaks, please report them to the Repairs Helpline.