

Invest in a new boiler – stay warm, save money and help the environment

According to the Energy Saving Trust the average conventional gas boiler wastes 40% of its heat through waste gases. This means that for every £100 you spend on gas, you are wasting £40 of it. Furthermore, burning fuel creates carbon dioxide (CO₂), a greenhouse gas that is harmful to the environment.

Replacing your boiler could be the answer to cutting your bill and helping to tackle global warming. Condensing boilers improve efficiency by recovering heat from the gases that would normally be wasted by a conventional boiler. High

efficiency condensing boilers convert more than 88% of their fuel into heat, by recovering the maximum waste heat normally rejected to the atmosphere by a conventional (non-condensing) boiler.

houses where there are simultaneous demands on the hot water, such as multiple bathrooms or showers.

- **Conventional heat-only boilers** take up more space than a combination system, but are able to provide hot water to several sources at once and are more suitable for larger houses.

- **Programmer/Timer**
It's natural to want a warm house as soon as you get up in the morning and when you come in from work, but it wastes energy and costs money to leave the heating continuously. A timer allows you to have heat when you want it and minimise waste. Look for an accurate, easy to use timer with a seven-day function to allow you to set a different heating pattern for weekdays and weekends.

What to think about when buying a boiler

- **Combination boiler or heat-only boiler**

You have a choice between a combination boiler, which provides heating and hot water on demand, or a boiler which operates the central heating but has a separate cylinder for hot water.

- **Combination boilers** can provide a continuous flow of hot water; require less space and avoid heating water unnecessarily, but are less suitable for



- **Size**
The size of your boiler is dictated by the output you require. It was common to oversize boilers to make sure it would heat your house adequately and most boilers installed

pre 1989 are as much as 30% oversized. An oversized boiler wastes energy and increases your fuel bills.

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To make sure your boiler is correctly sized, consider the following questions:

- How many radiators do you have?
- How many bathrooms do you have?
- How many rooms are in the house?
- Do you have double glazing?
- How much heat does your home lose?
- Are you planning to build an extension to your house?

A CORGI registered installer can help assess your answers to these questions and help size your boiler accordingly.

● **Where to store it**

When a boiler condenses, an acidic liquid is produced so your boiler must be plumbed in to a drain so that the liquid has somewhere to go.

You must also take in to account the fact that condensing boilers will produce a plume of water vapour, which will need to be released through a flue. This flue must be sited in accordance with building regulations. Discuss your ideas with your installer, particularly if you want to hide the boiler.

● **Installation**

Your boiler must be installed by a CORGI installer. Installers must carry their ID card with them. This will list the gas work that they are certified to do. You should always check that the person who comes out to see you is certified to carry out the work you require.

● **Why should I get a more efficient boiler?**

Boilers account for around 60 per cent of all domestic CO₂ emissions. Using a high efficiency condensing boiler with heating controls could significantly cut your home's CO₂ emissions, reduce your carbon footprint and save you money on your bills.

The Energy Saving Trust says that if your boiler's more than 10 years old then it probably isn't energy efficient. Replacing your old boiler with a new high efficiency condensing boiler will save you around a third on your heating bills straight away.

● **Did you know?**

If everyone in the UK with gas central heating installed a high efficiency boiler, we would save enough energy to heat an extra 3.7 million homes for a year.

● **How much could you save?**

Every home is different and energy bills depend on heating demand, size of property, insulation as well as the efficiency of your boiler. However, the

savings with a new condensing boiler can be substantial. According to Which? magazine, someone living in a flat could save over £80 per year on their bills, compared to an old gas heavyweight

boiler. In larger properties the savings can be even greater with a terraced property reducing their bills by around £118 and a detached home saving £193 per year. ■



If you want to find out more about replacing your boiler, contact Sutton and East Surrey Water Services for advice on the best boiler for you and a free no obligation quote

Call 020 8722 7004/5 or visit www.h2oservices.com