

Electric Storage Heaters



What are they?

Storage heaters work by storing heat that's generated at night at a cheaper rate and releasing this heat during the day. Most storage heaters are wall-mounted and look a bit like radiators. They use electricity to heat up ceramic or clay bricks inside them overnight. They then store this heat and gradually release it the next day to keep your home warm.

What's the benefit?

Having storage heaters means you can take advantage of lower off-peak electricity rates to heat your home. They are designed to work with Economy 7, an electric tariff where night-time electricity is much cheaper.

Storage heater tips for lower bills

1. The "output" setting of your storage heater should be turned off at night and when you are out of the room or out of the house.
2. The "boost" setting can be used to give out extra heat but this uses expensive daytime electricity. Be sure to use all the stored heat first by opening the output fully before using the boost.
3. Avoid using supplementary plug-in heaters. It's better to turn up the input on your storage heater and store more heat.

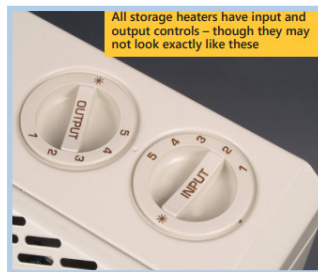
cse.org.uk/my-home/advice

energysavingtrust.org.uk/advice/electric-heating

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How do I use it?

Storage heaters have a set of simple controls. An input setting allows you to regulate the amount of heat the heater stores overnight and the output dial controls the release of that stored heat through the day.



• Input

- The input controls how much electricity your heater uses, and how much heat you'll get. The higher it is set, the more electricity it will use, and the more heat will be stored.
- How high you set the input dial depends on how cold you think it's going to be the next day. If you think it will be cold, this should be set high so that the heater stores enough heat to last you the next day. If the weather will be milder tomorrow, turn it down so that you don't store more heat than you need.
- Remember, the higher the setting, the more electricity you will use and it will cost more to run. And any changes you make to your input setting won't happen until the next day.

• Boost

Some heaters have an optional boost. You should only use the boost function if you've run out of stored heat as it may be using the most expensive electricity rate if you're on an Economy 7 style tariff. Try to use this minimally and only in the coldest weather if you've run out of stored heat.

• Output

- The output dial controls the release of heat, the higher it is set, the quicker heat will release from the heater. If it's set on minimum, the heater will still release the heat that's been stored overnight, it will just do it more slowly.
- Think about your daily routine and see if you can set your output control to suit this. To make the heat last all day, we recommend you leave the output dial on the minimum setting when you go to bed or if you're out during the day.
- If it gets colder during the evening, you can turn the dial up higher to let the remaining heat escape faster. Don't forget to turn the dial back to minimum before going to bed. Adjusting the output dial won't cost any money because it is only releasing the heat you've already paid for, which the input dial controls.