

How to save money and energy on your heating



You could cut your gas use by 6 to 8% by changing a single setting on your combi boiler.

This guide shows you how to change a single setting on your gas combi boiler to make it more efficient. It only takes a few minutes, and it can be changed back instantly, so there's nothing to lose by trying it.

What's a combi boiler?

A combi boiler provides both heating and hot water. If you have a combi, you won't have a separate hot water tank.

If you have a separate hot water tank, or you aren't sure if you have one, we don't recommend you make this change yourself. This is because water stored in a tank needs to be hot in order to stop bacteria from growing.

Step 1: Locate your combi boiler

To make the changes, you'll need to be in front of your combi boiler, not your thermostat. The controls you need will probably be on the front of your combi boiler, and may be behind a flap.

We recommend that you take a picture of your combi boiler controls before starting. This photo will record your current settings in case you want to change them back.

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Step 2: Identify the radiator symbol

Different manufacturers have slightly different symbols for central heating. They should look something like the examples to the right. Your combi boiler will have this symbol next to one of its dials or on one of its buttons.

All the instructions below relate to the dial that the radiator symbol is near or the button on which it is displayed.

If your combi boiler has dials, go to Step 3a. If your combi boiler has buttons, go to Step 3b.

Step 3a: Adjusting the radiator temperature using a dial

Most combi boilers don't have the temperature displayed around the radiator temperature dial.

You'll want to adjust the target radiator temperature to about 60°C.

If your combi boiler does not have a digital display, you won't be able to tell the exact radiator temperature. The diagram on the right gives the approximate position you should adjust the dial to – roughly 12 o'clock.

If your radiator temperature is already below 60°C, we recommend that you keep it at the current temperature.





Step 3b: Adjusting the radiator temperature with buttons

First, press the button with the radiator symbol on or near it. This should change the display to show the current radiator temperature.

Next, use down or minus buttons to set the radiator temperature to 60°C. The images on the right show how this might look.

If your radiator temperature is already below 60°C, we recommend that you keep it at the current temperature.





If you are struggling to alter your settings, freeboilermanuals.com has a catalogue of manuals. You can search by the manufacturer and model of your boiler, or your boiler's GC number. Every boiler has a GC number, and it's usually on the front of the boiler. It starts with 'GC' followed by a 7 digit number. Within the manual, there will be guidance on how to alter your radiator temperature.

If you are unsure about changing your boiler settings, ask an engineer to help when you next get your boiler serviced.

How does this work?

Reducing the radiator temperature (also known as 'flow temperature') helps your combi boiler to run more efficiently. This means it uses less gas to heat your home.

After changing your flow temperature, you may notice your radiators being warm rather than hot to the touch – this is normal. Many people don't notice any other changes to their comfort. If you find your rooms are taking too long to heat up, or not getting as warm as you'd like, try increasing the temperature again by 5°C.

If you find your home is comfortable with a lower radiator temperature, you could try turning it down to 55°C or below. This lower setting will save even more gas.

For more information on lowering radiator temperatures visit:



www.moneysavingboilerchallenge.com





