



## Getting the best from your storage heater

### How do I use the controls?

The hours of cheap electricity are normally from 12 midnight until 7am in winter, and from 1am to 8am in summer, although this can vary. Please check with your Electricity Supplier for your local hours of operation.

Every storage heater has a set of simple controls. An 'input' setting allows you to regulate the amount of heat that the heater stores during the night. This is important because even though night-rate electricity is cheap, there is no point paying for more than you need. If it is not particularly cold, or you will be out of the house for most of the day, you don't need to set the input to maximum because there is no point storing so much heat. Most storage heaters will only charge up at night, so there is no danger of using expensive day-rate-electricity.



The controls also have an 'output' setting that allows you to regulate the amount of heat that the storage heater gives off. It means you don't have to use up all the stored heat at once, but can let it out gradually, saving some for the evening if you want to.

Some storage heaters have a timer that gives you even more control over the output. It allows you to programme your heater to come on at a time that suits you, for example when you get up in the morning or just before you get back from work. Others include a control that regulates the amount of charge the heater draws at night, depending on the temperature.

Some storage heaters have a 'boost' setting. This does not use 'cheap-rate' stored heat, but uses 'peak-rate' electricity directly from the mains, so it should only be used if the stored heat has run out.

### **Here is an example of how you might use your Storage Heater:**

Mr and Mrs Smith are both retired and live in a rural area. They are not on the mains gas network and use electricity for their heating and hot water. They have storage heaters to take advantage of the Economy 7 tariff that they have chosen.

In winter, they are in for most of the day. This means they want the storage heater to charge fully at night, so they set the input to '6' and the output to '1' or 'off'. In the morning, to warm the house up, they turn the output to '4'. Once the house is warm, they turn it down to 2, and in the evening when it becomes chillier, they turn it up to 5 or 6 to use up the remaining stored heat.

### **Storage heater tips for lower fuel bills:**

1. The output setting of your storage heater should be turned off at night and also turned off when you are out of the room or out of the house.
2. Don't use the boost setting except when you really need the extra heat.
3. Avoid using supplementary plug-in heaters – it is better to turn up the input on your storage heater and store more.

