

# Night storage heaters

## A simple guide

**Storage-heaters work by storing heat generated by cheap night-time electricity and releasing this heat during the day.**

Most storage heaters are wall-mounted and look a bit like radiators. They work by using electricity to heat up a 'bank' of clay or ceramic bricks. This heat is 'stored until it's needed. The advantage is that they can consume electricity at night, when it's cheap (if you're on the right tariff), and give out their heat many hours later.

As a consequence they work best if the household is on an Economy 7. This is a tariff in which night-time electricity is much cheaper – typically about a third of the price – but day-time electricity is more expensive. The cheap hours are normally from 12 midnight until 07.00 in winter, and from 01.00 to 08.00 in summer, although this can vary. For more information about Economy 7, see our other leaflet.

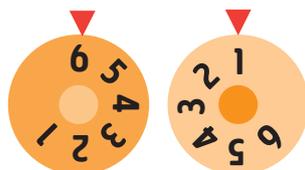
### Jack & Gwen's storage heater

Jack and Gwen are a retired couple whose home is heated with electricity. They have **storage heaters** to take advantage of the Economy 7 tariff.

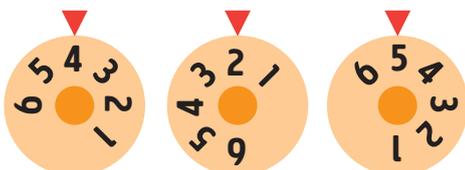
In winter, they are in for most of the day. This means they want the storage heater to charge fully at night, so they set the **input** to 6 and the **output** to 1 or off.

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.

**Night** Last thing at night, the input is turned up to 6, and output is turned down to 1.



**Day** Early in the morning, the output is turned to 4. Then down to 2 mid morning, then up to 5 or 6 in the evening.



All storage heaters have a pair of controls for input and output

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's no point paying for more than you need. If it's not particularly cold, or you'll be out of the house for most of the day, you don't need to set the input to maximum because there's 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, for example, 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 doesn't 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.

Night storage heaters can be a good option where electricity is used to heat the home.

## Tips for getting the best from your storage heater

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.



The boost setting can be used to throw out extra warmth. But it uses expensive peak rate electricity. Use all the stored heat first by opening the output fully before using boost.

Avoid using supplementary plug-in heaters. It's better to turn up the input on your storage heater and store more heat.



## ... and a few other ways to cut your electricity use, and save money



**Give your clothes a day in the sun** and give your tumble drier a break. Clothes dried in the fresh air feel great, and there are drying days in winter, too.

**Don't leave your phone on charge all night.** It only needs an hour or so. And try not to leave the TV and other kit on stand-by.

**Catch 'em young.** Encourage your children to switch off electric toys and lights that they're not using. They'll soon get the hang of saving energy.

**Be a friend to your freezer.** Defrost it regularly to help it run more efficiently.

**Dodge the draught!** Fit draught-excluders to your front door, letter box and key hole, and draw your curtains at dusk to keep the heat in.

**Turn your heating down by 1 degree.** You'll hardly notice the change in temperature, but it'll make a big difference to your heating bill.

**Buying a new appliance?** Check the energy label, and buy A-rated goods for the most efficient.



**Wait until you have a full load** before using your dishwasher or washing machine.

**Sleep tight.** Make sure all the lights are turned off when you go to bed. If you want to light a child's room or a landing, use a low-wattage night light.

**Only fill the kettle with as much water as you actually need** (but make sure you cover the metal element).



Plymouth Energy  
**COMMUNITY**

Interreg  
North-West Europe  
Climate Active  
Neighbourhoods

Ballard House, Plymouth, PL1 3BJ | 01752 477117

energyteam@plymouthenergycommunity.com  
www.plymouthenergycommunity.com

FACEBOOK Plymouth Energy Community

TWITTER plymenergycom

INSTAGRAM pecenergyteam

**Call our Energy Team on 01752 477117**

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