

REF: 411 WATER HEATING

ELECTRIC IMMERSION HEATERS

Only switch immersion heaters on when you need hot water - 15 to 30 minutes before the hot water is needed is enough, switch off once water has heated up. You can fit a timer to your immersion heater which allows you to switch it on and off automatically at pre-set times. Many households depend on electric immersion heaters for heating hot water, where no central heating system is installed. Some people believe that it costs less to leave immersion heaters switched on all day. **This is not true!**

For washing-up or even having a quick wash, boiling a kettle is usually cheaper than using the electric immersion heater.

ELECTRIC CENTRAL HEATING

Where a house has electric central heating, water should, where possible, be heated only at low rate unit cost times. The water heater is normally automatically preset to come on when electricity is on the lower rate unit cost.

GAS, OIL OR SOLID FUEL CENTRAL HEATING

If your house is centrally heated by solid fuel oil or gas, there are no cheap times to heat water. However, if it is possible to heat water separately from your radiators then set your programmer or time clock to do this.

THERMOSTATS

There is normally no need to have your water heated to an excessive temperature. For most peoples' needs a tap temperature of 60°C - 65°C or 140°F - 150°F is adequate. Most hot water tanks have adjustable thermostats fitted. A faulty hot water thermostat can cost money by using extra fuel. If the water is boiling and turning down the thermostat makes no difference, there may be a fault. A sudden high fuel bill might indicate a faulty thermostat. If you are a tenant contact your local housing office or landlord.

DRIPS

In only one day a dripping hot-water tap could waste enough water to fill a bath. Get dripping taps fixed and remember to turn taps off properly.

PLUGS

Rather than letting the taps run when you wash your hands or a few dishes, make a habit of putting the plug in the sink. This will cost nothing, but could save quite a few £'s a year. It also helps reduce condensation.

SHOWERS

Showers use around one-fifth of the hot water needed for a bath -if possible use a shower.

INSULATION

Insulating a hot water tank and pipes can save one third of the cost of water heating. The cost of fitting a tank-jacket is around £10/£15. If you are a private tenant contact your landlord. It may be possible to get your tank insulated as part of energy efficiency measures being carried out through the Warm Deal grant. **For further information on available grants contact SCARF – FREEPHONE 0800 512012.**

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Mission Statement

SCARF aims to work through partnership to promote sustainable use of energy, eradicate fuel poverty and create sustainable employment and training opportunities.

Core Objectives

- + To provide free impartial and accessible energy efficiency advice and information services to help save energy, save cash and help save the environment.
- + To encourage investment in energy efficiency and renewable energy measures and grant take up for property improvements to achieve affordable warmth.
- + To create sustainable employment and training opportunities.

SCARF Provides

One Stop Energy Advice Shop offers free impartial advice and information:

- + Energy efficiency in the home, business and the community
- + Renewable energy in the home, business and the community
- + Grants for loft and cavity wall insulation
- + Grants for draughtproofing
- + Grants for central heating
- + Grants for renewable energy installations
- + Paying for fuel and fuel suppliers
- + Choice and operation of heating and hot water systems

SCARF also offers:

- + Home visits
- + Home energy checks
- + Presentations and informal training
- + NVQ and City & Guilds Qualifications



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