

Tips for Selecting and Locating a Room Thermostat

A room thermostat is usually the main heating control that householders recognise and engage with. As its job is to maintain a comfortable set-point temperature while regulating the operation of the boiler, it is also a critical control to ensure that the boiler is operating efficiently during its 'on' periods.

It shouldn't be forgotten that there is the opportunity when selling the installation to a customer to offer them a choice of control types. Room thermostats come in many forms and it can be preferable for many customers to have a thermostat which gives them feedback on when the setpoint is reached or when the boiler is on. While it may be tempting to stick with a simple thermostat there can be real benefits from showing customers what is on the market. Finding controls that the customer is happy to use can prevent problems further down the line.



Giving customers a choice of thermostats can lead to better operation and greater satisfaction

A bit of thought is needed when finding the right spot for a room thermostat. It is important that any domestic room thermostat is correctly sited to ensure peak heating system performance. A room thermostat's operating performance can have a huge bearing on a system's economies, benefits and comfort levels. In fact, a carelessly-sited thermostat can even cancel out some of the energy efficiency benefits from a new heating system or replacement boiler or be the cause of performance problems leading to call backs.

The performance of all room thermostats is affected by the air-flow across them, so if poorly located the air-flow will not be representative of the rest of the room, and the temperature control will be adversely affected. Generally speaking, the thermostat should be positioned at a height of about 1.5m with a free flow of air around it and in a room that is heated.

Specific situations to avoid when locating a room thermostat are:

- In a room with another major heat source, such as an open fire, gas fire or cooker.
- In a room fitted with radiator thermostats
- In direct sunlight
- Behind furniture or curtains
- In a cold draught, such as next to a frequently opened door
- Directly above a radiator or other heat source, including heat-emitting electrical appliances such as a TV or computer
- In the corner of two walls
- In a corner at the junction of the wall and ceiling.

There may also be locations for room thermostats that appear to be perfectly acceptable but lead to problems. This is particularly true of walls where cold air can leak into the back of the thermostat, reducing the sensed temperature and overheating the living space. Usually such problems can be avoided if looked out for at the installation stage.