

tec the Environment Centre (tec)

Broken Heating Advice Guide

My heating is broken, what can I do?

Keep yourself warm – put on extra layers of clothes; several thin layers will keep you warmer than one thicker item • drink regular hot drinks and try to make sure you have at least one hot meal a day • keep as active as possible; even when you are sitting down arm and leg exercises can help your circulation • if you are sitting still for a long period of time, fingerless gloves, thermal socks, a blanket and a hot water bottle will all help to keep you warm.

Temporary heating – if you have alternative heating, such as a gas fire or wood burner, use these to warm a room • concentrate on heating the rooms and times of day when you most need to keep warm and well • portable electric heaters can be convenient but may be expensive to run; try to choose the best type of heater for your needs, for example fan heaters are good for fast short bursts of heat, whereas oil-filled radiators take more time to heat up but will keep the whole room warmer for longer • use a hot water bottle or electric blanket while you are sleeping, instead of trying to heat the whole room.

Hot water – if you have an immersion heater, you can use this to heat your water, but use it sparingly as it can be an expensive option • other self-heating appliances, such as electric showers, washing machines and dishwashers, should still work • alternatively you can use pans on the hob or kettles to boil water for washing.

Draught-proofing – this can be done at any time but it is particularly important when your heating isn't working, because it can make your home feel much more comfortable • we have draught-proofing DIY guides on our website or you could contact a Handyperson Service to do this for you • make sure you draw your curtains to help keep heat in and towels or rugs could be used as temporary draught-excluders.

Repair or replace? – is your boiler/heating system still covered by a warranty or do you have insurance? If this is the case contact the relevant organisation to see what they can do to help • alternatively, ask a local accredited heating engineer to look at the boiler/heating system to identify whether a repair or replacement is necessary and ask them for a written quote for the work • if your boiler is very old, you may save money in the long run by replacing with a modern, efficient boiler rather than repairing it • if you can't afford the repair or replacement, then depending on your circumstances, there may be funding that can help you - contact us to find out if you qualify.

Give us a call – to find out about funding or for more advice and information about keeping warm call Freephone 0800 804 8601.

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