



about boilers



Boilers are rated from A - G, with A being the most energy efficient and G being the least. All modern boilers are now A rated to give you the optimum efficiency for your home. To replace an old G rated boiler with a new A rated could save you £490 a year on fuel bills.

Is your boiler as efficient as it should be? Modern boilers are more efficient for several reasons, but their main advantage is that they are all condensing boilers. All well-maintained boilers burn their fuel very efficiently, but they inevitably lose some heat in the hot gases that escape up the flue.

A condensing boiler has a bigger heat exchanger, so it recovers more heat, sends cooler gases up the flue and is more efficient.

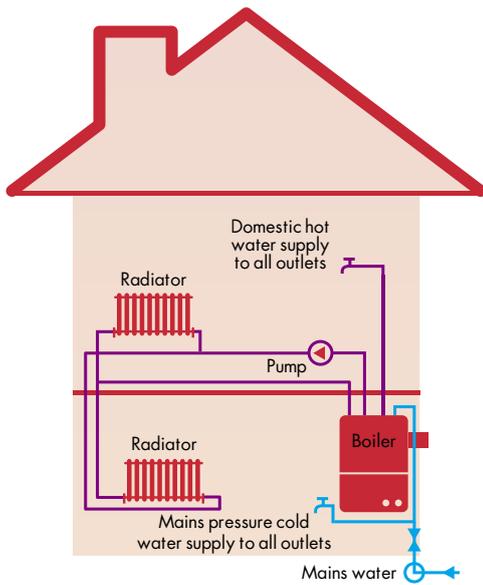
Key Points:

- Boilers over 10 years old should be recommended to be replaced, regardless of condition, due to their inefficiency levels.
- By upgrading your old boiler the energy performance level (SAP rating) of your home will be greatly improved.
- Boiler efficiency is the main factor in the overall efficiency of a central heating system.
- Home insulation is recommended before boiler replacement to avoid fitting an over sized boiler.
- Condensing boilers are always more energy-efficient than non-condensing boilers.
- Condensing boilers are easy to purchase, install and repair, compatible with most old and modern heating systems, and are available both as regular (separate storage tank for hot water) and combination (heating and hot water in single unit) models.
- Around 60% of CO₂ emissions from your home are down to your boiler. With an efficient new boiler you could save up to 875kg of CO₂ and £130 per year.
- You can claim up to £1000 Green Deal Cash Back towards a new boiler upgrade.

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types of boiler



Combination or 'combi' boilers

This is the most popular type of boiler in the UK, now found in around 70% of homes. Combi boilers provide central heating and hot water without the need for a separate tank to store water; hence you can easily tuck them away under the stairs or in kitchen cabinets. They are most suited to: Homes with one bathroom, households with single people, couples, families with one child. Usually available in following outputs: kw 24, 30, 35.

Advantages:

- Instant, unlimited hot water.
- Compact, easy to fit if space is limited.

Disadvantages:

- Unable to run multiple showers or baths at the same time.
- Lower flow rate for hot water than an open vent or system boiler.

System boilers

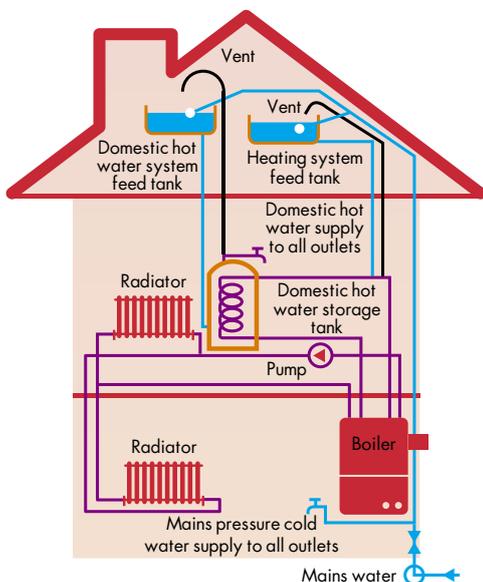
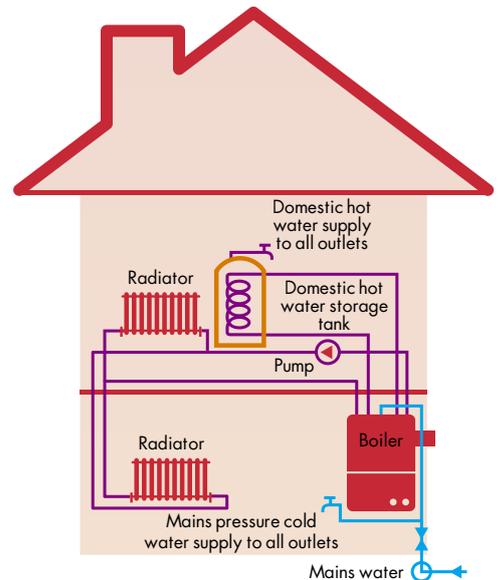
A system boiler (sometimes known as a 'sealed system') provides central heating and hot water via a storage cylinder housed in an airing cupboard - no need for water tanks in the loft, as with an open vent boiler. Most suited to: Larger homes with multiple bathrooms/ensuites; families. Usually available in following outputs: kw 12, 15, 18, 24, 30, 38.

Advantages:

- High flow rate for domestic hot water.
- No tank(s) in your loft.
- More than one hot tap / shower can easily operate at the same time.

Disadvantages:

- Hot water is not instant.
- Once the water in the storage cylinder runs out you have to wait for it to reheat.
- You'll need to find space for the cylinder (usually an airing cupboard).



Open Vent Boilers

Open vent boilers are a peculiarly British invention. An open vent (sometimes known as heating only) provides central heating and hot water via a boiler, a storage cylinder housed in the airing cupboard and water tanks in your loft. If you're looking to do a full system overhaul most people opt to remove the tanks from the loft and turn their open vent system into a sealed system. Most suited to: Larger homes with an existing open vent boiler. Usually available in following outputs: kw 12, 15, 18, 24, 30, 38.

Advantages:

- High flow rate for hot water.
- More than one hot tap / shower can easily operate at the same time.

Disadvantages:

- Once the water in the storage cylinder runs out you have to wait for it to reheat.
- You'll need to find space for the cylinder (usually an airing cupboard).
- The bulk feed and expansion tanks are usually sited in the loft - this can create a problem if you're considering a loft conversion.



frequently asked questions about boilers



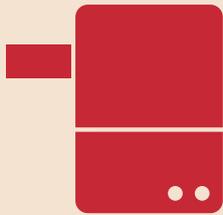
"no simple way to tell"

How can I tell how old my boiler is?

Unfortunately, there is no simple way to tell by looking at the boiler. Records should be left when the boiler is installed, so these could be checked to identify the age. If these aren't available then a qualified heating engineer would also be able to provide an indication of age.

Do I have a regular or combination boiler?

If you have a combination boiler, you won't have a hot water tank, over-tap electric water heaters or a cold water storage tank, and the boiler will start up every time the hot tap is turned on. Another sign indicating a combination boiler is five pipes (two for heating, two for hot water and one for gas supply) coming out of it.



"look for the flue"

How can I tell whether I already have a condensing boiler?

Look for the flue which will be sticking out through the wall at the back of the boiler. If it is plastic and a white plume puffs out of it when the boiler is on then it is likely to be a condensing boiler.

Should I insulate first or replace my boiler?

If your home is poorly insulated, then it is highly recommended to insulate first before installing a new boiler. A well insulated home should always require less heat, and if this is installed after your boiler, then your new boiler is likely to be over-sized, meaning it won't work as efficiently and will have a higher upfront cost.



"insulate first before installing a new boiler"



"RES can advise on recommended size"

What size boiler will I need?

Boilers should be capable of providing heat for the number of radiators you have in your home, and the size of your property. RES can advise on recommended size of boiler for your property as part of our free no obligation quote service.

How often should I service my boiler?

A boiler should be serviced once a year by a registered competent Gas Safe person.