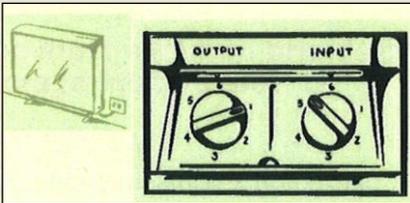


Storage Heating

Tips to take control of electric storage heaters for maximum efficiency

Storage heaters are insulated boxes containing bricks with electric elements running through them. When the elements are switched on the bricks heat up. This is called 'charging' the heater. Storage heaters charge up on off-peak electricity. The insulation keeps most of the heat in the box. The current electricity rates can be found in your letter of welcome.

With manual heaters the INPUT control should be adjusted manually in line with seasonal changes in the weather. Avoid changing the setting daily – two or three times a heating season should be sufficient. Use a setting of 1-3 in the Autumn and gradually increase it as Winter draws on. Reverse the pattern when Winter turns to Spring.



INPUT

This controls how much heat is stored in the heater – and how much electricity it uses. A thermostat inside the heater measures the temperature of the bricks and turns off the electricity supply when the selected setting is reached.

With the INPUT on its lowest setting a small amount of heat is stored in the heater – you may want to use this setting when the weather is mild. With the INPUT control on its highest setting the maximum amount of heat possible is stored. To stop the heater storing any heat, switch it off at the wall.

If you have manual heaters the INPUT should generally be increased as the weather gets colder. Start at around 2-4 during Spring and Autumn and increase the setting to maximum in colder weather. Remember that using top-up heat from an alternative heat source, such as a fire, late into the night will affect the input to an automatic storage heater.

OUTPUT

This controls room temperature. It opens and closes the flap at the top of the heater. On its lowest setting heat leaves the heater slowly. On its highest setting heat leaves the heater quickly and so the stored heat is used up faster.

For maximum energy efficiency the output should be turned up during the day only when heat is required and turned down at night before retiring to bed. Generally the setting should be increased as the weather gets cooler and reduced when the weather gets warmer.

Tips to remember:

- Leave the on/off switch on for the heating season (normally October – April)
- Turn down the OUTPUT to stop heat being given out when you don't want it
- If your lodge is cold, turn up the OUTPUT control until the room warms up
- When the room is warm, turn down the OUTPUT control to save heat for later in the day – the higher the OUTPUT during the day the less heat is available at night
- As the weather gets warmer and you need less heat, turn down the INPUT control to store less in the heater for example 3-4 in mild weather and 5-6 in cold weather is usually adequate
- If your lodge is warm enough in the summer turn the heaters off at the wall – and back on when it starts to get cold
- Set the OUTPUT dial to 1 in unoccupied rooms and 2-4 when the room is in use
- Don't put furniture right in front of heaters and don't cover them with curtains or use them to dry clothing
- It should cost less to heat your lodge with storage heaters than by electric fires, as storage heaters use cheaper off-peak electricity