

## **Central Heating Problems**

### Central Heating not Working – Radiators not hot

Is the boiler pilot light lit? The pilot light should be visible through a small 'viewing window' – a small, usually round, clear window on the boiler.

Does the boiler sound the same as normal? Does the boiler make the same noise when it is turned on?

Is the thermostat in a hot part of the room or house? The thermostat should be in a cold part of the room or house so that it turns the central heating on when it is cold. Has something that gives off heat, for instance an electrical appliance, been put near the thermostat? Is the heat from an electrical appliance 'fooling' the thermostat into thinking it is hotter than it really is?

Are the radiators hot upstairs but not downstairs? Hot radiators upstairs but not downstairs could mean that the pump is broken or 'on its way out' – the pump does not have enough 'umph' to pump the water up in height. Does your central heating system have 'zonal switching' (can control the heating to different parts of the house) – is the zonal control set correctly?

Does turning the radiators off in one part of the house make the radiators in another part of the house heat up and vice versa? This indicates a pump 'on the way out' or a 'clogged up' central heating system. The pump may need replacing or the central heating system flushed out – or both – call a plumber.

If the boiler does not make any noise when it is turned on, it seems completely 'dead', the problem could be the electrical supply to the boiler. Check the electrical supply to the boiler (fuses and RCDs).

### Central Heating Timer not working

Replacing a central timer is fairly easy and can usually be done by a competent 'DIYer'. The connections to the timer are usually 'standard' (each make of clock has the same connections).

Replacing the timer is usually a cheap and easy option.

Turning the supply off to the timer 'resets' the timer and solves some problems – the switch is usually near the central heating boiler or the central heating control mechanism. The clock and on/off times

will need to be set after removing power to the timer.

Does the central heating control mechanism have a reset switch? The switch is usually on the side of the mechanism; press the reset switch. The clock and on/off times will need to be set after resetting the timer.

Is the clock on the timer correct? Is the timer set to the correct time? Is the timer clock set to AM when it should be PM?

The most common cause of central heating timers not working is the timer clock is not set to the correct time. Clocks can be reset without the homeowner knowing, for instance a short mains 'power spike' can reset the clock.

Does the timer have a 'zone control' option? Some timers allow you to turn different parts of the central heating system on and off at different times, for instance upstairs and downstairs. Is the zone control set correctly?

Is the thermostat set correctly? The timer could be operating correctly but the radiators are not heating up because the thermostat is set too low.

### Central Heating System Making 'Funny Noises'

Air in the central heating system causes most 'funny noises' – loud banging, 'hammering' – call a plumber to 'bleed the system'.

Tightly fitting pipes can cause 'creaking noises'. If central heating pipes are a tight fit to floors or walls you will get creaking noise as the pipes heat up and cool down – pipes expand when hot and contract when cold. To solve this problem make the holes that pipes go through slightly bigger.

### Central heating boiler faults

There are many different types' boilers, clocks, thermostats, pumps, valves and heating systems used in domestic and commercial applications; this is what makes diagnosing boiler problems difficult to the inexperienced person.

**No power to boiler or central heating timer clock – they look 'dead'** – check the fuse which is in

the 'fused spur' which should be near the boiler or the clock or both. If the fuse is OK has the RCD tripped?

There are fuses in the boiler which can blow, call an expert to change them. If the boiler fuses have blown the central heating control clock works but the power lights on the boiler are not lit.

**Boiler heating the hot water but not the central heating** – a common problem after not using the central heating for some time. Give the central heating pump and pump valve a 'love' tap – a gentle tap. A 'love' tap sometimes 'frees' a sticking pump or valve.

Is the thermostat in a hot part of the room or house? The thermostat should be in a cold part of the room or house so that it turns the central heating on when it is cold. Has something that gives off heat, for instance an electrical appliance, been put near the thermostat? Is the heat from an electrical appliance 'fooling' the thermostat into thinking it is hotter than it really is?

**Boiler heating the central heating but not the hot water** – Could be a problem with the cylinder thermostat or central heating valve problem. Give the central heating pump valve a 'love' tap – a gentle tap. A 'love' tap sometimes 'frees' a sticking valve.

Is the boiler clock working? It could be the boiler clock is not asking the boiler thermostat to heat the hot water.

The central heating does not light up (seems dead) or respond and the boiler doesn't work – does the central heating clock have power going to it? Has a fuse blown or RCD tripped?

If the clock has power going to it this suggests the central heating clock is broke.