

# Information Leaflet

## Storage Heaters

Your handy guide  
to getting the most  
out of your storage  
heater.



Sussex Housing & Care

## Storage heaters

Storage heaters work by taking advantage of the cheaper rates of electricity at night, under 'Economy 7'.

Typically, the discount night rate is available for the seven hours from 12.30am in the winter and 1.30am in the summer. Storage heaters use the cheap night-time electricity during 'Economy 7' to "charge up" with heat, which is then released during the day.

### What is inside my storage heater?

There are dense blocks surrounding the heating elements. The blocks may be made of clay bricks, concrete or water. The blocks and the elements are closely insulated to minimise heat loss.

## How do I control my storage heater?

Most storage heaters have two controls, one called input and one called output.

**Input** - controls the amount of heat stored, so in a cold period turn this to the highest number setting.

**Output** - controls how much heat will be given out during the day.

### When should I change my input and output settings?

If you are out during the day leave the output set to a low number (1 or 2). When you return in the afternoon or evening, set the output to a higher setting (5 or 6) and this will allow stored heat out.

A good setting to use is to set the input to 4-6 dependant on how cold it is, and the output set to 2-3, then raise the output to 6 in the evening, this way you should have constant heat.



## My storage heater has only one control, how do I work it?

A storage heater with one control is called a thermostatic storage heater.

This heater will automatically regulate the temperature in a room throughout the day. To save electricity you can put the thermostatic switch to the lowest setting overnight .

If the room is empty during the day, it is better to keep the thermostat at the lowest setting and then increase the setting when

you use the room in the evening so the heater will then warm up the room.

Some thermostatic heaters will top up their electricity during daylight hours if they need to store more heat but be aware that this is outside of 'Economy 7' so will cost more.

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