## Faults and Problems

Storage heating can have a lifespan of forty years. They are generally easy to fix if something goes wrong.

Any repairs to your storage heater should only be carried out by qualified electricians or engineers.

Common problems include faulty thermostats and blown elements. These are easy and not too expensive to fix.

Another consideration might be whether or not the storage heater is the right size for your room.

**For further energy advice, please contact the Citizens Advice Bureau - Energy Advice Service via the contact details below:**

-Phone: **01595 694696**
-Email: **sicab@shetland.org**
-Website: **www.shetlandcab.org.uk/**

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# STORAGE HEATERS
# Making the Most of Them

**Produced by**
**Shetland Islands Citizens Advice Bureau**

**Storage heaters are used in homes which have electrical heating systems.**

- They store up heat in bricks using lower priced electricity - usually overnight.

- Storage heaters usually take in a charge two or three times per day. Your energy supplier generally monitors the weather so they can ensure that the storage heaters receive the correct amount of charge to store heat.

- Heat stored can be adjusted by the **input** switch and the heat used can be adjusted by the **output** switch. This means that you only pay for the heat you need.

- Storage heaters can be manual or automatic.

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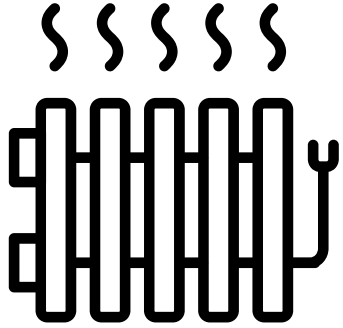
## Tariffs

If you heat your home using electric storage night heaters, you will probably have to choose a **dual rate tariff**.

There are several tariffs that are used for electric storage heating. Some are viewed as "historic" tariffs and are no longer offered by energy suppliers.

**Economy 7** will be the main tariff that most suppliers use for electric heating. It is also known as **Domestic Economy**. All the units used during off-peak periods are charged at a lower rate than those used during normal rate periods.

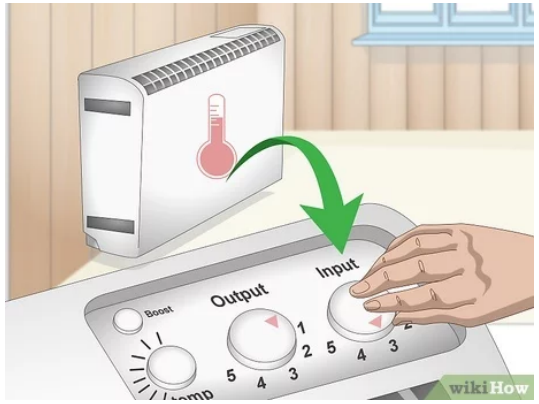


## Controlling Storage Heaters

How you control your storage heaters will determine how much heating you store overnight and therefore will influence your running costs.

**INPUT CONTROL :** This is the switch that gives the overnight charge to heat the bricks and store the heat to use the next day

**OUTPUT CONTROL :** This is the heat booster or temperature control switch. Generally if you increase the output you will get more heat.




## Settings

The ideal temperature for a room is around 21 degrees. The temperature should not dip below 18 degrees or exceed 24 degrees.

If you are not sure what setting the **input** and **output** controls should be, then it would be a good idea to set them both at 3 or 4 (this is mid-position).

If the next day you feel there is not enough heat in the room then turn them up a notch until you get your ideal temperature.

The colder it gets the more likely you will be to use more heat therefore costing more.

If your house is empty during the day then your **output** switch should be left at the minimum - this will save the heat for when it is needed.

## Panel Convector Heaters

These are often used to heat areas such as bedrooms, bathrooms, kitchens, and other areas that only require heating for short periods of the day.

The main types of control for these are:

- **Thermostat Control:** Set this control to the appropriate position to give the comfort level required. The heater will switch on and off as necessary and a higher setting will make the room warmer.

- **On / Off Switch**: A neon indicator will illuminate when in the on position and confirm that power is being supplied to the unit.

- **Time Clock**: (Dependent on model and manufacture). Can be set to switch the heater on and off automatically by altering the segments to suit the householder.

- **Selector Switch**: Controls the electricity supply to the heating elements. The switch that is marked **I - II** (half heat - full heat) provides a choice of output required.