

Bleeding Radiators

Practical skills

Why radiators go cold at the top, and how to fix it.

Educational reference. Ten minutes, once a year.

1

Turn the heating off

And let the system cool.

2

Start at the lowest floor

Work upward through the house.

3

Open the bleed valve slowly

Bleed key, quarter turn. Cloth and container underneath.

4

Wait for water

Hissing air, then a trickle of water. Close it immediately.

5

Recheck the boiler pressure

Top up to about 1–1.5 bar if it has dropped.

OTHER SYMPTOMS

Cold at the bottom → sludge, needs a flush

Cold all over → valve closed or pump problem

Cold at the top → air; bleed it

Educational reference. Bleeding drops system pressure. Check the boiler gauge afterwards and repressurise if needed.