

Heating & Hot Water

Practical skills

The controls in a typical home, and what each one actually does.

Three separate controls, commonly confused.

Control	Sets	Note
Room thermostat	Target temperature	One per zone; not a throttle
Programmer / timer	When heating runs	Not the temperature
TRV on a radiator	That room's temperature	1–5, not a tap
Cylinder thermostat	Hot water temperature	60°C minimum for safety
Boiler flow temp	Radiator water temperature	Lower is more efficient for condensing boilers

Turning a thermostat up does not heat a room faster. It heats to a higher final temperature, and then overshoots.