

Buyer's guide: Choosing the right boiler for you



Heating and hot water accounts for well over half of total energy use in the home so combining a more efficient boiler with a full set of heating controls will save you money.

How efficient is my current boiler?

If your boiler is more than 15 years old, it's probably not as energy efficient as it could be. Since 2005, condensing boilers have more commonly been installed. These are more efficient because they recover more heat from the gas (or oil or liquefied petroleum gas), and so use less fuel.

Did you know?

Replacing a G-rated boiler with a new A-rated boiler could save you up to £325 a year.



My boiler was installed after 2005*, do I have a condensing boiler?

If the following points are true then you have a condensing boiler:

The flue is made of plastic (the flue is the pipe that takes the exhaust gas from your boiler through the wall or roof)

The boiler has a plastic pipe coming out of the bottom, through the wall and into a drain

i If you think your boiler is non-condensing then a new boiler should be much more efficient.

What are my options if I don't have gas?

Boilers can run on oil, liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) from a tank, coal or wood. If you don't have a gas supply to your home but other neighbours do, it might be worth looking into getting a gas connection. The company that owns and operates the gas network in your area may be able to help with the cost of getting a new connection, and it may even be fully funded. Contact them for further information.



*or after 2007 if it is an oil boiler.

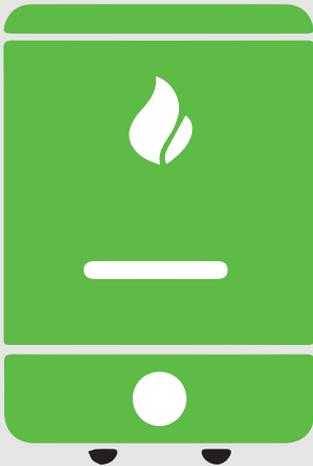
Estimated savings and costs quoted are based on a family of 4 sharing a 3 bedroom semi-detached home (Energy Saving Trust, April 2016).

For expert and impartial free advice on reducing your fuel bills, saving energy and making your home more comfortable visit energysavingtrust.org.uk or call: England and Wales - The Energy Saving Advice Service on 0300123 1234 (charged as a national rate call). Scotland - Scottish Government's Home Energy Scotland hotline on 0808 808 2282 (calls are free).

What type of boiler should I choose?

There are two types of condensing boiler:

1



Regular boiler

Heats your hot water and the water is then stored in a hot water cylinder

Advantages

- ✓ Provide highest flow rates of hot water
- ✓ When programmed, hot water is available immediately when the tap is turned on
- ✓ Compatible with solar water heating

Suitable for homes with

- 🏠 Predictable hot water demand
- 🏠 Several people using hot water at once
- 🏠 Considering solar water heating

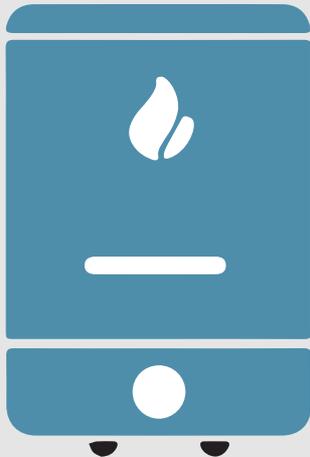
Speak to your  installer or an energy advisor about what type of boiler will suit you best.

Did you know?

Regular boilers lose heat from the hot water cylinder, but combi boilers can use more gas when heating small amounts of water.

Combi boilers are more likely to be suitable for smaller households, but usually people make a choice by considering other factors, such as how they would like to heat their water.

2



Combination boiler (combi)

Gives you instant hot water without the need for a hot water cylinder

Advantages

- ✓ Can be quicker and cheaper to install
- ✓ Take up less space – no need for separate hot water tank
- ✓ Will not run out of hot water

Suitable for homes with

- 🏠 Unpredictable hot water demand
- 🏠 Limited space
- 🏠 No existing hot water tank

Top tips for getting quotes for a new boiler:



The average cost for getting a new boiler can vary depending on what work needs to be done. You should always get at least three quotes.



Before you get a quote for a new boiler you should make sure your home is properly insulated and draught-proofed first. It takes less energy to heat a well insulated home so you may require a smaller boiler.



If you are looking for a new gas boiler you should ask whether they are Gas Safe registered. In Great Britain, all work on gas appliances must be carried out by an engineer on the Gas Safe register.



You can contact them on **0800 408 5500** or visit their website **www.gassaferegister.co.uk**