

# Getting the best out of your oil heating system

Equipment manufacturers have worked to raise the efficiency of oil fire heating equipment to a level not reached by those burning other fuels. Technicians responsible for the installation, commissioning and servicing of this equipment will ensure that it operates to its full potential in respect of energy efficiency.

Here are some actions you can take to save energy and run your heating system more efficiently:

- **Make sure your oil boiler and tank are serviced regularly, preferably by an OFTEC Registered Technician, who will also be able to give you advice on energy efficiency.**
- **Upgrade your system controls**
- **Replace your existing boiler with a high efficiency condensing model**

## Servicing your Oil Boiler and Tank

Regular maintenance of oil fired appliances by a skilled technician is vitally important. This work requires the use of proper combustion efficiency testing equipment. Service is normally required every year, but for some appliances, six monthly attention is recommended by the manufacturer.

Regular maintenance can keep an appliance operating at peak performance, reducing fuel bills and saving on costly call out fees.

Heating system controls need to be regularly checked for correct operation and this should form part of the annual service.

It is also important that your oil storage tank is inspected annually.

You can find a local OFTEC Registered Technician at: [www.oftec.org.uk](http://www.oftec.org.uk)

## Upgrading System Controls

Accurate system controls can save money by reducing heat wastage. Reducing room temperature by 1 °C, you can save up to 10% off your annual fuel bill.

Recommended controls include:

- Room thermostats
- Thermostatic Radiator Valves (TRVs)
- Cylinder Thermostat
- Programmers set to 'on and off' time periods
- Programmable room thermostat, which is both a programmer and a room thermostat.

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## Replacing your Boiler

Consider replacing your old boiler with a modern condensing model, to help save cash on fuel bills.

Condensing boilers recover as much of the waste heat as possible which would normally pass out of the flue into the air in a conventional boiler. They are highly efficient. This is why Building Regulations were changed recently, to ensure that, if you have a new or replacement gas or oil boiler installed in your home, it is a condensing type.

Replacing your old boiler with a modern condensing one will significantly reduce your fuel bills, helping you to cope with today's higher energy prices. OFTEC believes this could save you up to £230 a year if you use oil. A condensing boiler will also dramatically reduce carbon emissions, which is good for the environment. Oil condensing boilers have efficiencies of up to 97%. Information on Government grants that may be available to help you make the change can be found at: [Grants and Sources of Further Information](#).