

# Electric storage heater tips

An electric storage heater takes in energy overnight (at lower cost) and stores the heat for you to use the following day. They are a good system for even temperature 'background' warmth. You may have other heating to 'top up' to the comfort level you want. The heater has two dials to control 'input' and 'output'. The 'Input' dial controls the storage of heat. The 'Output' dial controls the room temperature.

Automatic heaters sense room temperature to decide how much to store overnight. The recommended room temperatures are 21°C in the living room, and 18°C in the kitchen and bedrooms. It is important to remember that if you turn the heater down and use a fire instead, it may cost more, as the energy for the fire is supplied at a higher price.

## Using the 'INPUT' control

If they are manual heaters it is best to start at a setting of 2–4 for Spring and Autumn, and increase to the maximum for the Winter.

Remember to adjust it down again to save money. If they are automatic heaters you can adjust the setting to the 'comfort' level you require and the system will generally control the input from the night time room temperature. It is important to remember that if you boost the room temperature by a gas fire or other means late at night, it may cause the input of cheaper rate energy to be reduced overnight.

## Using the 'OUTPUT' control

To get the best efficiency the dial should be turned up during the day only when heating is required, and reduced if it is too warm. The dial should be turned down before you settle down for the night. You will probably need to increase the setting as the weather gets colder, and reduce it as the weather gets warmer. An important point is that the lower the output dial is set, the later the top of the heater will open to allow extra heat for you.