

Central Heating Problems

Radiator making strange noises

Everyone's central heating system probably makes a 'strange noise' at some point. When your boiler, radiators or pipes start making strange sounds, it can often seem quite worrying. However, many noises are simple problems with quick fixes. If you are not confident to follow the instructions below, please contact a trained engineer.

- **Kettling**

Kettling is a common issue that is usually caused by a build-up of sludge or limescale in the central heating system. Please follow our 'How to Bleed a Radiator Guide'. If the build-up is severe you may require a power flushing service to remove the sludge and get your central heating in full working order once again. You will need to get your heating system professionally flushed out by a trained engineer.

- **Gurgling**

Air bubbles trapped in the water of the central heating system expanding and collapsing can make gurgling sounds. You may also find that part of your radiator is not being heated fully. Bleeding your radiators will solve this problem in most cases. Please follow our 'How to Bleed a Radiator Guide'. If after bleeding your radiator this issue hasn't been solved, please call out an engineer.

- **Tapping**

A tapping noise coming from your central heating system can be caused by a part being fitted incorrectly. If you've recently changed or had a new part fitted, please contact the fitter to come back and review the work undertaken.

- **Banging**

As water passes through the pipes, they expand and contract due to heat. If the pipes in your central heating system have not been fitted correctly, this could cause a banging noise to occur. This noise may be particularly prominent if your pipes are close to floorboards or the surface of an object. If the object is a piece of furniture, then you can either move the furniture slightly or put a foam pad in between. You may need to call out an engineer to refit the pipes correctly to solve the banging noise. In some cases, extra pipe clips can solve banging caused by vibration.

Radiator warm at the bottom but cold at the top

This is usually due to air in the system and most commonly happens after you've had the heating off for lengthy periods. Use a radiator key to "bleed" the air out. Unscrew the bleed screw just enough so you hear air hiss out. Get ready to tighten it up as soon as water starts to come out onto a rag. The radiator should feel warm at the top now.

All radiators in the system are warm except one is cold all over

If you find that one of your radiators isn't hot, then hot water clearly isn't getting to that individual radiator. Please check that both of the valves are fully open by turning them anticlockwise all the way. Sometimes the valves can be very stiff, therefore, if you have any difficulty turning them, try unscrewing the cap, pulling the cap off to reveal a square shaft. You can then adjust the square shaft with a spanner. If the valves of the radiator in question are not fully open this will affect the amount of hot water going into the radiator and therefore its heat output.

Radiators hot at the top but cool at the bottom

When a radiator is hot at the top and cool at the bottom it normally means that there is some sludge/limescale in your central heating system. This circulates around the system and can get trapped at the bottom of one or more of your radiators, causing them to block and prevent hot water circulating properly. You will need to get your heating system professionally flushed out by a trained engineer.

All radiators are cold

If all of your radiators are cold, please call a professionally trained engineer.