the heatinghub

www.theheatinghub.co.uk



You can cut your gas bills by 6-8% today

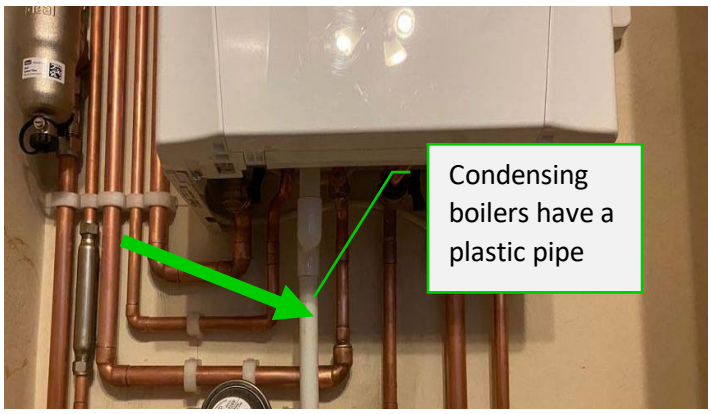
When you lower the 'flow' temperature on your condensing combi boiler

We show you how.

The problem

- Condensing gas boilers are not 'A-rated' out-of-the-box.
- Studies have found most to be C-E rated in the home.
- To put it another way, condensing boilers are only 75-85% efficient in practice when they should be 92-94%.
- This means they waste a lot of gas that you have to pay for.
- A lower flow temperature helps your boiler reach its efficiency potential and reduce your gas bill. 😊





The solution

- Your boiler heats up the water it sends to your radiators to 25-80°C; this is called 'the flow'.
- Nearly all boilers are left at their factory settings of 80°C, which is too high to operate efficiently.
- Most householders can reduce their flow temperature to 60°C themselves without any reduction in comfort.
- At 60°C your boiler will be nearer to 92% efficient.

What type of boiler do I need to do this?

- You will need a **condensing combi boiler.**
- It will be a condensing boiler if it has a white plastic pipe underneath the boiler (it can also be grey or black).
- It will be a combi boiler if it provides your heating and hot water – i.e. you do not have a hot water cylinder.
- Do not attempt this if you have a hot water cylinder.
- There is no benefit if you have a non-condensing boiler.



Lowering the flow temperature instructions

You can do this easily and safely yourself…

Step 1 – go to the front of your boiler

1. Go to the front of your boiler – we are <u>not</u> turning down your thermostat.
2. Some boilers have a pull-down flap.
3. It is ok to open the flap.
4. **Don't worry!** You will not damage your boiler or stop it from working if you adjust the flow temperature yourself.





Step 2 – how to turn down the flow temperature on different boilers

<u>Boilers with just dials</u>

Go to the dial that has a little radiator icon next to it.

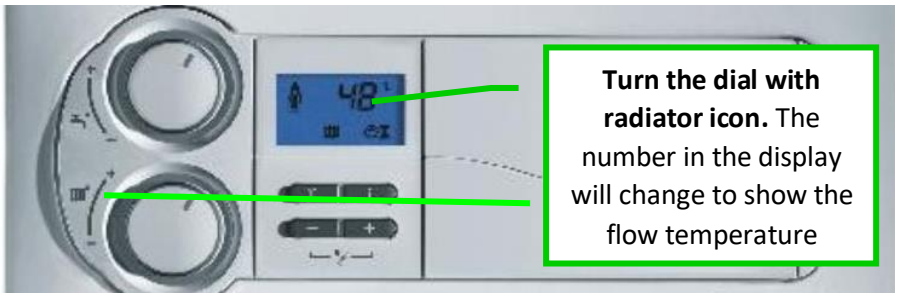
Dial types: The dial may show numbers (1-6), a dashed line or a line increasing in thickness. Halfway or No.3 will be about 55-60°C. Try setting slightly higher to begin with, or number 3.





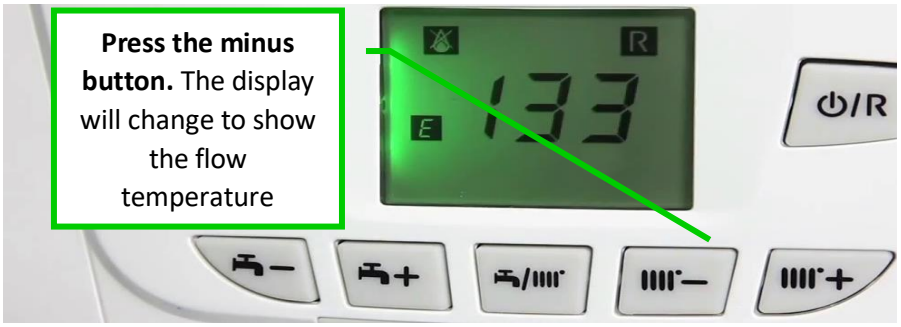
<u>Boilers with digital displays</u>

Some boilers have a dial, but the temperature will show on the digital display. Turn the dial until it shows 60°C on the display and leave it.



<u>Boilers with up & down buttons</u>

Press the minus (-) 'radiator' button until it reaches 60°C. NB sometimes you have to press and hold a menu button to bring up flow temperature, then reduce to 60°C, then press the menu button again to set it (like setting the time on a cooker).



Step 3 – what happens next?



Cooler radiators - the first thing you might notice is that your radiators do not feel so hot. This is a sign that the system is running cooler and more efficiently. If you do not feel cold, then it is working as it should.
Boiler is 'on' more - You may find it takes longer for your house to warm up. You can extend the time your boiler is on to compensate. For most homes, running the boiler for a longer period at a lower temperature will use less gas than shorter, hotter cycles of heating.

Step 4 – How low can I go?

Older homes

If you have double glazing, 200mm loft insulation and your home is well draft proofed, you should be able to drop the flow temperature to 60°C.

TOP TIP: Adding more loft insulation and draft proofing windows/doors and open fireplaces (using a chimney balloon) will make a huge difference and will cost £100s rather than £1000s.

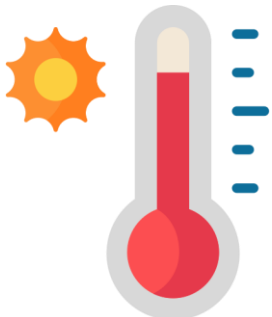


Homes built after about 2010, incl. many flats

If you have a new build home, a very well insulated older home or a flat built from the 1990s onwards, you should be able to drop the flow temperature to 50-55°C. **TOP TIP:** If your home stays warm at 50°C or less you are ready for a heat pump.



Step 5 – keep on lowering the flow temperature to save more ££



- As outside temperatures begin to rise over 7°C, you can lower the flow temperature again and keep lowering it.
- The lower you can go, the more money you can save.
- OR you can have the heating on for longer at no extra cost.
- You will not break the boiler if you lower the flow temperature.
- You can always turn it back up again if you get cold.

Don't be afraid, you will not break your boiler if you lower the flow temperature

Safety warning

If you live in a vulnerable household, we do not recommend that your 'trial and error' with your heating system. It is important that you stay warm and ask an expert for help.





Step 6 – where to find more free help if you need it

ALPHA HELPLINE Tel: 0344 871 8764
website: www.alpha-innovation.co.uk

Alpha
HEATING INNOVATION

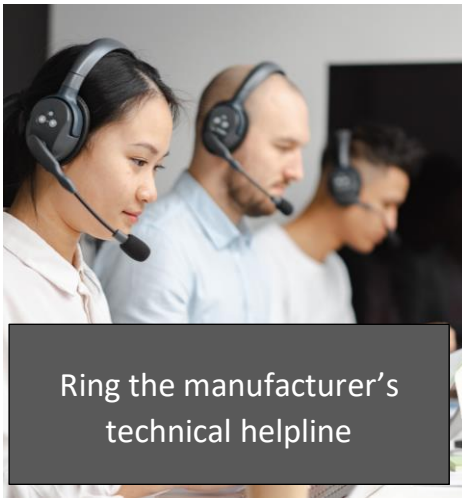
Nepicar House, London Road,
Wrotham Heath, Sevenoaks,
Kent TN15 7RS

Alpha E-Tec 28 (NG)	G.C. No. 47 532 69
Alpha E-Tec 28 (LPG)	G.C. No. 47 532 73
Alpha E-Tec 33 (NG)	G.C. No. 47 532 70
Alpha E-Tec 33 (LPG)	G.C. No. 37 532 74

Look in your boiler manual

Find your manual online with the GC number – which can be found on the boiler

Alpha E-Tec 28 (NG)	G.C. No. 47 532 69
Alpha E-Tec 28 (LPG)	G.C. No. 47 532 73
Alpha E-Tec 33 (NG)	G.C. No. 47 532 70
Alpha E-Tec 33 (LPG)	G.C. No. 37 532 74



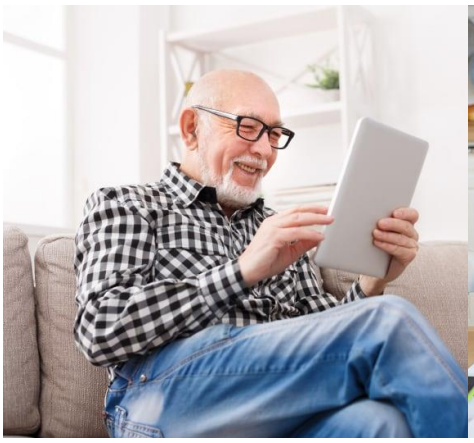
Ring the manufacturer's technical helpline

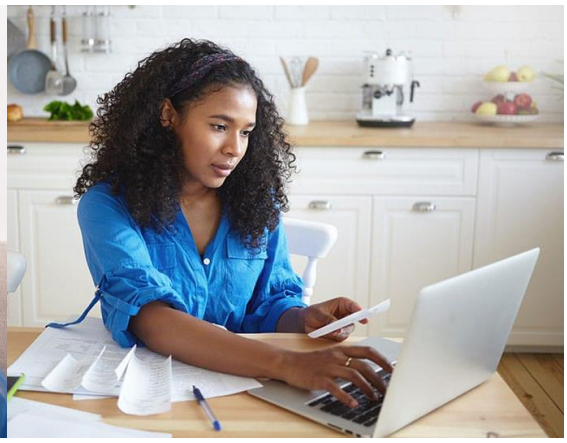
Step 7 – more ways to make your boiler efficient

There is lots more free, impartial advice on gas boiler efficiency on our websites.

www.theheatinghub.co.uk/boiler/gas-boiler

www.theintergasshop.co.uk/content/category/2-blog





About us

I am a chartered surveyor and I run The Heating Hub where we give consumers impartial and expert advice on their home heating. Richard is a registered gas engineer, energy consultant and runs multiple online shops. We are both passionate about boiler and energy efficiency. We work with organisations across the domestic heating and energy sectors to help bring about greater fuel savings for households and produce free guidance for consumers on what they can do themselves.



Jo Alsop

Rich Burrows