

# Fan-assisted storage heaters

A worthwhile upgrade when your heaters need replacing

More sophisticated than standard night storage heaters, fan-assisted storage heaters can reduce your energy use and electricity bills.

## How do they work?

All storage heaters work by drawing on electricity over the course of a few hours at night and storing it as heat in a 'bank' of clay or ceramic bricks to use the following day.

Unlike conventional static storage heaters which automatically release the stored heat by convection, fan-assisted storage heaters have a low speed, quiet fan. This draws air through the heater and discharges it through a grill or vent at the base of the unit. The fan may also have an adjustable speed so that you can control the rate at which heat is given out. The 'output' control on the top of the unit might even be named 'fan control'.

A significant advantage of fan-assisted storage heaters is that the fan can be controlled using a separate thermostatic control - this means that you can set each room to a specific temperature and the heat will only be used when required. The room thermostat is supplied with the heater.

These heaters also have more than double the insulation of conventional storage heaters, so there is minimal heat loss

from the storage bricks when the heater is not in use, meaning you're less likely to run out of heat during the day.

## Costs and savings

If you are replacing your old heaters with modern fan-assisted storage heaters, you should expect to spend between £400-£800 per heater.

Fan-assisted storage heaters charge up at night and release heat during the day because they are designed to work alongside an **Economy 7 electricity tariff**. Economy 7 gives you a cheaper, 'off-peak' electricity at night, which is useful for people who use electricity for heating. (See our factsheet 'Economy 7 for heating and hot water'.) The off-peak period is typically between 12 midnight and 7am during winter months, and from 1am to 8am during the summer, although this may vary. During the off-peak period, the electricity used by your heaters will cost around a third of the standard rate.

Assuming that you are on the Economy 7 tariff, a typical household could save as much as £180 per year on electricity bills by upgrading to fan-assisted storage heaters with thermostatic controls.

*Fan-assisted storage heaters allow you to set each room heater to a certain temperature, plus they're better insulated and easier to control*



Photo: heatstore.co.uk



3 St Peter's Court  
Bedminster Parade  
Bristol BS3 4AQ

0117 934 1400  
[www.cse.org.uk](http://www.cse.org.uk)  
[info@cse.org.uk](mailto:info@cse.org.uk)

Charity: 298740  
Founded: 1979

The **Centre for Sustainable Energy (CSE)** is a national charity that helps people change the way they think and act on energy.

Our **Home Energy Team** offers free advice on domestic energy use to householders in Bristol and Somerset (including the unitary authorities of North Somerset and Bath & North East Somerset).



Call free: 0800 082 2234

Email: [home.energy@cse.org.uk](mailto:home.energy@cse.org.uk)

Web: [www.cse.org.uk/loveyourhome](http://www.cse.org.uk/loveyourhome)



[www.facebook.com/EnergySavingAdvice](http://www.facebook.com/EnergySavingAdvice)



[www.twitter.com/@cse\\_homeenergy](http://www.twitter.com/@cse_homeenergy)

# Tips for lower energy bills

Happy paying your gas and electricity supplier more money than you need to?

Thought not. Here are 15 ways to cut your bills ...

1) **Keep the oven door shut as much as possible;** every time you open it, nearly a quarter of the heat escapes.



2) **Give your clothes a day in the sun;** and give your tumble drier a break. Clothes dried in the fresh air feel great, and there are drying days in winter, too.

3) **Food in the oven cooks faster when the air inside flows freely,** so don't put foil on the racks.

4) **Don't leave your phone on charge all night.** It only needs three hours – and try not to leave the TV and other kit on stand-by.

5) **Be a friend to your freezer.** Defrost it regularly to help it run more efficiently.

6) **Catch 'em young.** Encourage your children to switch off electric toys and lights that they're not using. They'll soon get the hang of saving energy.



7) **Dodge the draught!**

Fit draught-excluders to your front door, letter box and key hole, and draw your curtains at dusk to keep the heat in.

8) **When boiling water, only fill the kettle with as much as you'll actually use** (but make sure you cover the metal element at the base).

9) **Buying a new TV, washing machine or dishwasher? Look out for the Energy Saving Trust 'recommended' logo,** and remember: the bigger the TV, the more energy it'll use.



10) **Dimmer is smarter.** Use your dimmer switches to reduce the amount of energy used to light your room.

11) **Wait until you have a full load before putting on a wash.** Two half-loads use more energy (and water) than one full load.



12) **Sleep tight.** Make sure all the lights are turned off when you go to bed, or use a low-wattage night light if you do need to leave one on.

13) **Turn your heating down by 1 degree.** You'll hardly notice the change in temperature, but it'll make a big difference to your heating bill.

14) **Put your fridge in a good spot.** Somewhere the air can circulate behind it, but not next to a cooker or radiator.

15) **New computer? Remember a laptop typically uses around 85% less energy than a new desktop PC.**



3 St Peter's Court  
Bedminster Parade  
Bristol BS3 4AQ

0117 934 1400  
[www.cse.org.uk](http://www.cse.org.uk)  
[info@cse.org.uk](mailto:info@cse.org.uk)

Charity: 298740  
Founded: 1979

The **Centre for Sustainable Energy (CSE)** is a national charity that helps people change the way they think and act on energy.

Our **Home Energy Team** offers free advice on domestic energy use to householders in Bristol and Somerset (including the unitary authorities of North Somerset and Bath & North East Somerset).



Call free: 0800 082 2234

Email: [home.energy@cse.org.uk](mailto:home.energy@cse.org.uk)

Web: [www.cse.org.uk/loveyourhome](http://www.cse.org.uk/loveyourhome)



[www.facebook.com/  
EnergySavingAdvice](http://www.facebook.com/EnergySavingAdvice)



[www.twitter.com/  
@cse\\_homeenergy](http://www.twitter.com/@cse_homeenergy)