

The room thermostat

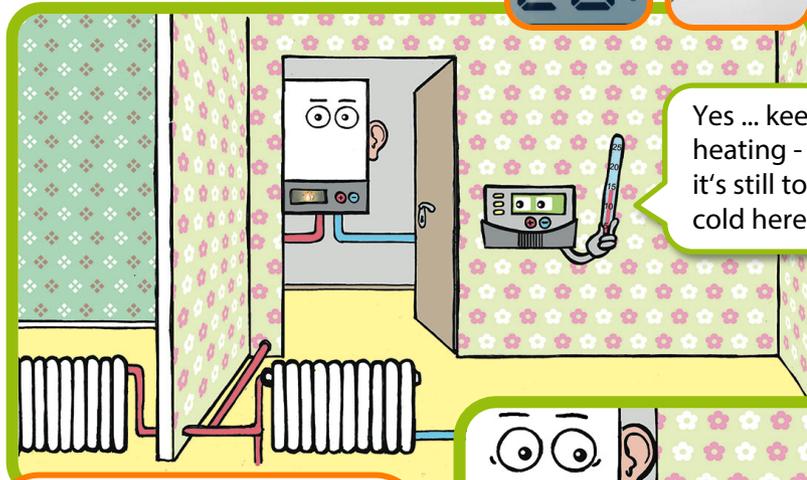


There are all kinds of room thermostats, yet there is one thing they all do: They allow you to set a **desired temperature**. The job of the room thermostat is to measure if this temperature has been reached or not. If it is colder than the desired temperature the thermostat tells the heating to "fire". At which point, hot water is pumped through all of the radiators in the flat. As soon as the room thermostat realises that the desired temperature has been reached, it simply switches the heating off.* When it becomes too cold again, it switches it back on ... and so forth. So you do not need to turn the room

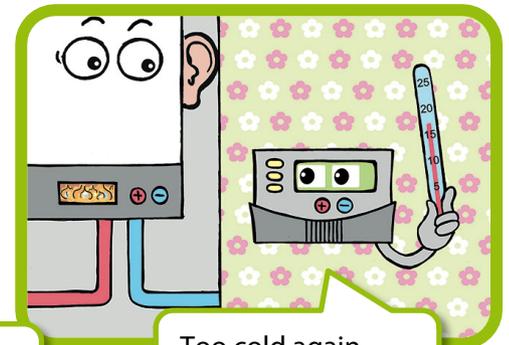
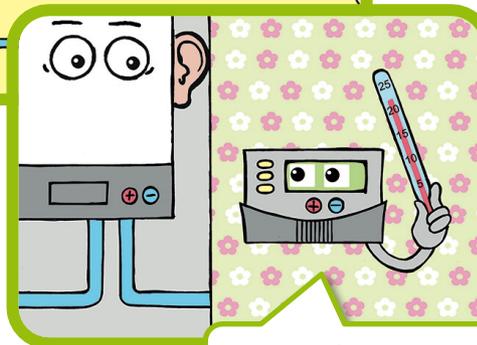
thermostat up and down all the time, but **only set the temperature once for the level of heating that you desire**. The room thermostat also adjusts the temperature automatically if it gets warmer or colder outside! It does not have to be readjusted after this – you may only have to wait a little longer at times until the desired temperature has been reached.

*Alternatively, some heating systems modulate the temperature of the water in the radiators. These systems are rare in low priced tenements, however.

Setting the desired temperature: Digitally or analogously



Every less degree used saves around 6% of heating energy! Therefore our tip: Check out whether a temperature of 21°C or less may suffice you!



... and during the night, try 18°C!

Lower the temperature over night!

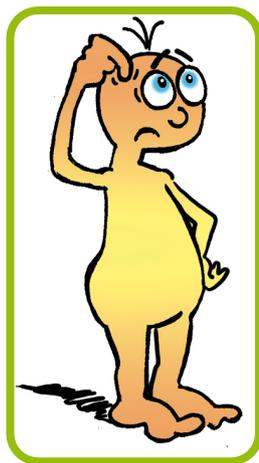
Some room thermostats only have one dial for setting the desired temperature. To save energy, use it to lower the temperature by 3 to 4 degrees at night (and whilst nobody is at home) - for example, to 18°C! Other room thermostats can do more: They allow you to set another desired temperature. This one is called **setback temperature** (or **saving temperature**). When you are at home during the day, select the standard temperature. This is often indicated by a small sun ☀. During the night, and at the times when you are not at home, choose the slightly cooler setback temperature (often indicated by a little moon ☾). This can help you to save a lot of energy, and you should, by all means, make use of this function!

Note: Some room thermostats have a flap at the front that must be opened in order to adjust the setback temperature.

There are two options for switching from one desired temperature to the other:

- Toggle manually between the standard (☀) and the setback temperature (☾) before you go to bed and after getting up (respectively when leaving the flat and on your return) **or**
- Set times for the thermostat to toggle automatically back and forth: For example, select the standard temperature (☀) from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. and the setback temperature (☾) from 11 p.m. to 7 a.m. This comes in handy because the switching cannot be forgotten. Furthermore, it allows you to determine that the heating already switches to ☀ half an hour before you get up.

Das Symbol einer kleinen Uhr ⌚ often indicates a mode that toggles automatically between both temperatures.



And how does it work in my case?

Setting of the temperatures and the times differs from device to device. Read the manual carefully or ask a plumber or an energy consultant. Sometimes landlords/ladies, neighbours or friends can also be of help!

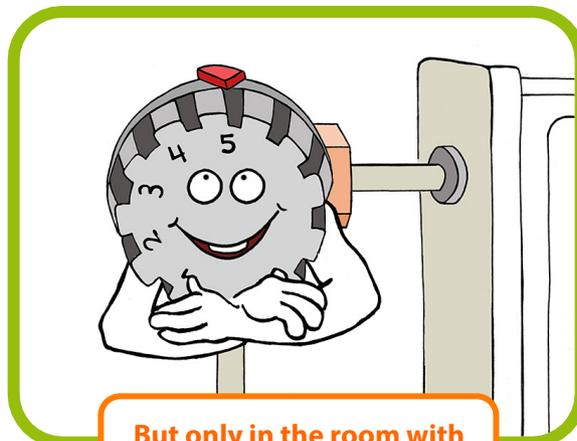
Once a year, your heater should be cleaned and serviced. You have to enlist a plumber to carry this out. In some countries this is obligatory or it may be part of your lease! Use the opportunity this affords you for asking how to set your room thermostat. Explain that you want to use a setback temperature!

... Another thing:

Do you have turnable knobs for controlling the valves on the radiators in the room which the room thermostat is in?

If so, always open these valves fully. This means: turn them all the way to the left (step "5" or "6"). If they are turned down it becomes harder for the heating to reach the desired temperature set on the room thermostat. The heating will therefore necessitate more energy, in this case!

However: In all other rooms you should not open the valves fully! In the other rooms you control the room temperature by use of the valves on the radiators. In this case energy will be wasted if they are fully opened!



But only in the room with the room thermostat!

Checkliste – Hängt das Raumthermostat an einem guten Platz?

The room thermostat should be mounted in the room that you use most often or that you want to be the warmest. In most cases this will be your living-room. It should be able to "gauge" the temperature correctly in this room.

Infact, the room thermostat ought to be relocated if it is in one of the following places:

- ⊗ a room in which you do not spend a whole lot of time during the day
- ⊗ behind furniture or curtains
- ⊗ above a radiator or close to warm electric devices
- ⊗ close to a door or window where cold air frequently enters