

A Practical Guide to Fitting a New Boiler in Bristol



When fitting a new boiler in Bristol, the first decision to make will involve finding a boiler type which is appropriately matched to the size of your house, your heating demands and how you usually use hot water. A professional heating engineer will assess your existing system which include the old boiler, all of your pipework, radiators and controls and will then advise a compatible replacement system. In selecting this system you will be shown how to size correctly for the output the boiler should have relative to your property, and fitting too large a system or one too small will effect the efficiency and running of the system during [boiler installation in Bristol](#).

Once the boiler model has been identified the correct installation practice should be carried out as efficiently as possible to ensure your system is working correctly. Following this, an engineer should remove your old boiler, amend the appropriate connections within the property and install your new system in accordance with the engineers or manufacturers instructions. Following installation the system should be run up and tested to establish any leaks and the controls should be adjusted so you as the homeowner are able to use the boiler with ease. Regular service can then keep the system efficient and alert of issues in advance.

Signs It Might Be Time for a New Boiler

For many people, the question of replacing a boiler in their Bristol home simply isn't a priority until it fails completely, yet there are usually many obvious warning signs of an aging and increasingly ineffective unit. Unexpected increases in energy bills, that haven't coincided with changes in habits, may often signify an inefficient and potentially failing boiler. Unexpected mechanical noises when in operation, the pilot light cutting out on an irregular basis, or the need for regular and costly repairs can all be indicators of the boiler coming to the end of its service life. The age of the boiler is also a factor that should be kept in mind. Boilers generally become less reliable and replacement parts can become difficult to come by on models over 12 to 15 years old. If your heating engineer has expressed reservations about your particular model being scheduled for withdrawal, it will usually be more prudent to look into replacement options than to run the risk of a major failure, during cold weather. Uneven temperatures across the home, radiators which take significantly longer than before to heat up, or the available hot water running out at a quicker rate, are other early warning signs, which may indicate the necessity of fitting a replacement. Keeping a simple diary of this information along with all visit from a heating engineer can assist, making the decision regarding whether or not fitting a new boiler, versus repairing the old one, a logical conclusion. Presenting this diary to your heating engineer on their initial visit can provide immediate and appropriate advise.

Types of Boilers Suited to Bristol Homes

Given the range of property types in Bristol – from terraced Victorians right through to modern day apartments and flats, so the right boiler depends, to some degree, on the property style. Smaller homes and flats are perfect for combination boilers, as these heat hot water on demand, meaning there's no need for the water to heat up then be stored in a separate tank – essential in property types that can feel somewhat cramped! The presence of numerous bathrooms within the house makes a system boiler a suitable choice, as these can still adequately support several hot water outlets simultaneously without any drop-off in pressure. Conventional or 'heat-only' boilers are very often chosen over other types in properties that already feature the traditional hot water cylinder and tank; these tend to be older properties and it can sometimes be the least disruptive option to leave the cylinder system in place and just replace the boiler itself. The water pressure in the home, coupled with the size and layout, as well as existing pipework in the house will be taken into consideration by the heating engineer, who will give the customer their verdict of which type will work best. Customer and household needs: Consider the demand placed upon the hot water system within the house. Is it being used by just one or two people at a time in a compact flat where a combination boiler would still cope well, or is it a house with more bathrooms all working at the same time so that only a system boiler together with an appropriately sized cylinder will stand a chance of keeping up?

Getting an Accurate Quote for Installation

You need to get a quote from a site visit, not from over the telephone. This means that an engineer will visit your house, where they can see your present systems and work flow, what access issues there may be and give you a price based on the specific work required, not a guess. When comparing quotes, ask for them to be itemised into a separate price for the boiler and also for labour, materials, and other related costs, like any work which will be needed on the piping system. Having between 2 or 3 quotes for a Gas Safe registered engineer is more likely to ensure that you don't get a price too low from somebody you might not get good quality from once they are on site and discover other work needs to be

done, leading to extra charges further down the road. Get the engineer who surveys your job to answer the same questions no matter which quote it relates to. Questions such as how long the work will take, what happens if something unforeseen is discovered once work is underway and what the quotation stands for in terms of pricing are crucial for comparison (which is otherwise impossible when the terms on each are varied from quote to quote), you could also reasonably ask for references from similar jobs currently under completion.

What Influences the Overall Cost

What you pay for the installation of a new boiler in Bristol will depend on many variables; the type of boiler purchased will be a factor: combi boilers are usually cheaper to install than system or regular boilers needing hot water cylinders, while the degree of difficulty required for work can also push up the cost especially if pipes are needed to be moved or an alternative flue positioned to ensure that they meet the current rules set out for flue positioning.

The type of property you own is important in; an old building like many here in Bristol can easily throw up its share of problems: pipework needs to meet the current regulations, an old boiler could have very old piping that can also cause it to be moved at cost. What the labour prices cover may also vary between engineers; if the old boiler needs to be removed (at additional cost) or disposal included, the work would be quoted higher. It will also depend on the price the brand and make of boiler has, and its output rating will increase the cost for a model suited to larger properties, unlike something you can get for small homes that work for flats, and so forth. Generally picking something in the middle with a respected company, should be reasonably fine on the prices for the boiler, and the labor as you are buying an easy appliance to repair and one that the installer will know. Many owners will have to look at running costs for 10 years down, however, where even the price can be more in favor if the boiler is more efficient, to save you money in 10 years.

Preparing Your Property Before the Engineer Arrives

Some initial effort will make installation day much more of an easy run. Where the existing boiler, which is situated either under the sink or in the airing cupboard or utility room, is located, the area needs to be clear so the engineer has room to move, which will avoid delay. If the new boiler is to be installed elsewhere, that location also needs to be cleared in advance for [boiler installation in Bristol](#). Anything that is fragile and valuable can only do well in being moved away before the day starts, as some noise and dust cannot fail but to be created when the work is carried out. And for pets it would appear to be quite simple to keep them shut away in another room until work has finished. If any person could be made available that has detailed information of the heating system's history, such as problems or repairs that were carried out in the past, that will enable the engineer to draw up and get to work to suit them. Confirm parking facilities are in place before day of fitting because there are normally many difficulties with carrying up tools and materials along a very tight and busy residential street to the actual building site; a brief warning to all neighboring houses would prevent annoyance from inevitable noise; if it happens that the occupant of the building site work from home or has particular time limits, advise the engineer during booking to arrange schedule accordingly.

A Walkthrough of Installation Day

Your installer should start by shutting off the gas supply and water supply, and then removing your old boiler. They will then mount your new boiler, connecting up the pipework to the new appliance, and modify the flue if necessary. The procedure will vary slightly depending on whether you're having a like-for-like replacement or a system change. The installer should then test the appliance for gas and water leaks, check the gas pressure is correct, and ensure that the boiler is firing properly. The average standard combination swap will take approximately a day, although system or standard boiler installation, or changes of location can often take longer. The installer should also go through operating the controls on your new boiler, answering any questions you may have. While your installer is working, you will not have any heating or hot water, so it would be worthwhile having this factored into your plans in advance-especially if there is a young, elderly or specific need member of the household. Knowing how long it should take at the start allows you to organize the rest of your day. You could ask someone to attend the boiler replacement throughout the duration even if you can't get to your house.

Building Regulations and Gas Safe Compliance



When it comes to fitting a boiler in UK property regulations are very stringent and any engineer undertaking the job needs to be registered with the Gas Safe Register. There is no way around this and any homeowner should ask to see an engineers Gas Safe ID card prior to any work being carried out, confirming that they have a legal right to carry out work on a gas appliance. Once fitted and the job completed then the fitting needs to be informed to the local building control, which, should be dealt with by a Gas Safe registered engineer automatically through Gas Safe scheme. A Building Regulations compliance certificate needs then be sent to the local building control. This may be needed later if you sell your property and could be looked for; so best be kept somewhere safe.

If work is carried out without a registered engineer then house insurance could be invalid and the necessary documentation may not be available to later prove that work has been carried out to comply with building regulations for house insurance, and for sale purposes later on; so it is always good practice before booking a heating engineer to check on the Gas Safe Register website that their identification numbers for heating and boiler work have been correctly entered prior to receiving instructions so that if you are unsure give the Gas Safe Register a quick call to get their ID and to make sure this individual engineer is qualified in fitting boilers.

Challenges Common to Older Bristol Properties

There are many period homes throughout Bristol and having this can create several unique issues when having a new boiler installation carried out. The old central heating systems and pipework originally laid in a Victorian and Edwardian home were not installed with a new boiler being connected and thus will sometimes need to be rerouted or upgraded so that modern appliances meet current British Standards. Flue placement can be a greater challenge in terrace houses as, again, the neighbors' walls or windows cannot be too close and they need to be adequately away to adhere to the clearance rules.

Some older properties offer restricted or difficult access into a loft, meaning further expenditure may be needed to ensure it's safe for a boiler installation to take place.

In many cases an engineer knowledgeable of homes within the locality would recognize the problem on the initial survey, rather than a surprise to be revealed when they get there to fit the boiler. Listed buildings and conservation areas are common throughout the West of Bristol and will place more restrictions on external flue installations and the appearance of all pipework. It is worth enquiring with the planning office as to these restrictions before installation can commence to avoid any necessary works to be made good that do not conform. An engineer experienced within older residential areas of Bristol would more likely take the restrictions into account on initial survey.

Checks to Carry Out Once the Work Is Finished

It is worthwhile ensuring that your engineer gives you a quick tour of the controls before they leave after your new boiler has been installed. I would recommend having the engineer show you how to change the temperature settings and timers, and to fill the pressure up should it be needed, as you will be expected to know how to do both of these yourself from then on in. It is important that you obtain copies of all documentation which should be received either with your boiler installation, and should contain the manufacturer's warranty registration, building regulations compliance notice and a copy of your Gas Safe certificate. Furthermore, you will be required to test the heating and hot water systems over the course of the next few days to ensure that everything is running correctly, so I advise that you get in contact with your installer if it appears that anything is running differently. I suggest taking a photo of the serial and model numbers of the boiler before they cover up all the panels to prevent from losing this information. It is ideal that all paperwork is kept together to save any confusion should a part need to be obtained or any queries arise, no matter if it is kept on record electronically or physically.

Warranties, Registration and Ongoing Care

It is usually a good idea to register a new boiler as soon as it has been fitted. Most boiler brands will cover the unit with their manufacturer's warranty for a minimum of two to ten years (dependent on the boiler itself and whether fitted by a qualified engineer), but you can't take advantage of it if you leave registering it until much later. An annual service is the best way of keeping the boiler in full working order as it may help pick up and solve small issues that you may not otherwise be aware of which could prevent minor inconveniences at first and lead to costly repairs later on.

For this reason many households around Bristol often arrange a service plan with their boiler installer, which covers these annual checks and often guarantees a priority callout if the boiler suffers a breakdown later on.

Last but not least, keeping a log of service history, repairs done and the general running of the boiler will be of a great help when selling your home on, as a surveyor or interested buyer may require it as part of their inspection; the sooner they know there will be readily available this information the quicker and less stressful this task becomes.