

Easy Wins: Heating Times



Checking Heating Times

Checking time settings can be a simple way to identify potential savings. On programmers check the time is correct and the periods for use are correct or appropriate. Sometimes heating can be running several hours before the site opens and after the site is closed, which may not be necessary.

Ask

Can these times be reduced? When setting heating times people naturally seem to resort to the heating coming on or turning off on the hour, quarter past or quarter too and half past. But buildings do not necessarily work that way.

Try

Reducing the heating times at the start and end of the day by a few minutes each week. Or are there areas that are only used or never used at certain times of the day? Just a six minute change at the start and end of each day can reduce the heating time by over an hour a week.

Example 1 - People were complaining that a site was too hot in the morning but then got too cold by the end of the day. The thermostat was set to 30 degrees and people thought it must be faulty. Our survey revealed that the programmer time was 12 hours out and so the site was being overheated all night.

Result - The time was corrected and the thermostat temperature was reduced by 9 degrees. This resulted in more comfortable working conditions and reduced heating bills.

Example 2 - On a brief survey of a shop and office, the heating times were checked and found to be set to be on from 8:30am until 5pm, but there was an extra heating setting from 6pm until 7.30pm. No one at the site could explain the need for this setting.

Result - Heating time reduced by over 7 hours a week.

Note

All buildings are different, but it should be possible to switch the heating off half an hour to an hour (or more) before the site closes each day.

Be careful not to go too far too fast. If you find the temperature drops to an unacceptable level after a change you will get complaints. Just revert back to the previous day's times or add five or ten minutes to the settings.

If you are interested in energy efficiency measures then take a look at the installer or supplier section of the Link to Energy website:

www.linktoenergy.org.uk