

Give your heating a summer break

The heating is not needed in the warm summer months – but on cool summer mornings, it will happily switch itself on. This makes it important to have the right setting on the heat generator for heating operation and hot water production during the summer.

Action

Switch the heating off entirely in summer – provided that your hot water production system allows you to. Make sure the priorities for water heating (see below) are set correctly in summer.

Requirement

You have access to the heating control. A separate heat generator is available for hot water.

By giving your heating a “summer break”, you will reduce energy consumption by 3 to 5 percent.

What to do

1. Switch the heating to summer mode

The right setting depends on how the hot water is produced (also see overleaf).

2. Check the heating groups

Five hours after switching off, check whether the flow pipe for the heating groups is cold and the boiler is switched off.

3. Check the heating pumps

With your hand, check whether the circulating pump is warm or whether it is vibrating. In these cases, switch the pump off manually.

4. Reduce the pressure on the thermostat valves (optional)

Set all the thermostat valves in the building to “Central position (3)” (also see overleaf).

5. Check the hot water heating function

Check whether the various heat generators are switched on correctly:



- 1st priority: the thermal solar system
- 2nd priority: heat pump, heat pump boiler
- 3rd priority: heating boiler (wood)
- 4th priority: heating boiler (gas or oil)
- 5th priority: electric (immersion) heating element – legionella circuit (see overleaf)

Costs – effort

Your own labour: approx. 1 hour in the heating basement and approx. 2 hours in a larger building to reduce the pressure on the thermostat valves.

Please note!

- The basic rule is: switch the heating off early. In case of an unexpected cold snap, you can always switch the heating back on for a short time.
- Make sure that the external sensor is not directly exposed to solar radiation. If it is, it will falsify the measurement result and will need to be relocated to a shaded position.

Additional explanations

Year-round controllers

Modern heating controls are equipped with an automatic summer function. This makes it possible to set the heating limit, i. e. the temperature at which the heat generator (heating boiler, heat pump) starts to work. The benefit of this is obvious: the system switches on automatically at unusually low temperatures. There is no manual winter-summer switchover on these controllers. (Also see the fact sheet on heating: 01 Optimise the volume flow)

With or without water heating

The setting for summer operating mode depends on how the hot water is heated.

Case A: hot water is not heated by the heat generator in summer. Switch the heating off completely (operating mode selector switch: “Off”). The heat generator is completely switched off.

Case B: hot water is partially or fully heated by the heat generator in summer. Set the heating to summer mode (operating mode selector switch: “Summer”). The heat generator is now set so that it does not “heat” the building, but does heat up the hot water when required.

Operating check on heating pumps

You can check the temperature and vibration to determine whether the heating pump is operating. If the pump is more than lukewarm or if it is vibrating, it is still running. In this case, it may be that the circulating pump has to be switched off manually from a separate switch, especially on older systems. Newer controls perform this automatically.

Why reduce the pressure on thermostat valves?

In the “Central” position (3), the mechanism that regulates the flow of water into the radiators is somewhat relaxed. This reduces the risk of blockage and having to release the bolts manually in autumn. Reducing the pressure on the thermostat valves is a time-consuming task because you have to go through the entire building in spring (to reduce the pressure) and again in autumn (to reset the correct temperature). This job therefore tends to be performed infrequently in practice.

Switching on the legionella circuit

If your water heater uses an electrical heating element to increase the temperature of the water in the tank periodically – to 60 °C once a week, for example – make sure that the tank is thoroughly warm (e. g. 55 °C) before the electrical element switches on. The electrical element should then be used only for the residual heating (from 55 to 60 °C).

Note: according to the latest scientific investigations, the positive effect of switching on legionella circuits in tanks with hygienically critical temperatures is disputed. Switching on the “legionella circuit” each week is thus no longer recommended.

Additional information

- [Energy manual for caretakers](#)