

Set thermostat valves correctly before the heating season

If the room temperature is too low or too high in only a few rooms at the start of the heating season, this will be due in most cases to individual thermostat valves that are either faulty or incorrectly adjusted.

Action

At the start of the heating season – usually in October – check whether all the thermostat valves are working, and that the right temperature is set.

Requirement

Radiators or underfloor heating are controlled by thermostat valves.



In buildings, every additional degree C increases the heating costs by 6 to 10 per cent.

What to do

Release and adjust a jammed valve:

1. Remove the thermostat head

- Relieve pressure on the thermostat: to do this, turn it to the highest level; this reduces the pressure on the valve pin.
- Remove the thermostat head (depending on the model: slacken the screw, or turn the clamping ring counterclockwise).

2. Release the valve pin

- If necessary, pre-treat the valve pin with penetrating oil solvent spray.
- Gently tap the pin with a rubber mallet until it can be moved (see overleaf). Caution: do not pull the pin out! If you can push the pin in with your finger and it then comes out again automatically, the valve is working again.

3. Fit and adjust the thermostat head

- Fit the thermostat head back in position.
- Set the temperature you want. When doing this, keep to the guidance values (see overleaf) for the relevant type of room usage.

Costs – effort

- Your own labour for one room with three thermostat valves: ¼ to 1 hour
- New thermostat head: approx. CHF 50
- Valve and thermostat head: approx. CHF 100
- If there is no way to disconnect the radiator from the water system, the entire heating system must be drained and refilled so you can install the new valves. In this case, it is best to replace all the valves in the building at the same time.

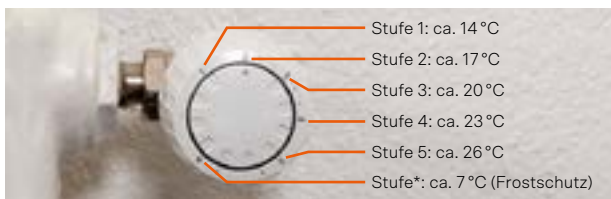
Please note!

Make sure that the same temperature is set on all thermostat valves in the same room. (Mechanical) thermostat valves from different manufacturers basically have the same structure. However, they differ as regards design (fixing, setting options) and scaling (temperatures). All manufacturers' websites offer good, easily understandable instructions on operating their products.

Additional explanations

Temperature setting

You will see that the thermostat valves are only marked with numbers or bars, but no specific information is stated about the temperature settings. The scaling may differ slightly from one manufacturer to the next, but the principle is similar for all these devices. Here are some guidance values to show approximately which temperature is set in which position:



The “right” room temperature

The following temperatures are valid as guidelines for a pleasant indoor climate:

- Office, meeting room: 20 to 22 °C
- Workshop: 18 °C
- Warehouse, basement: 16 °C
- Areas where people circulate: 17 °C
- WC, showers: 20 to 23 °C

Ensure air circulation and prevent heat accumulations

As far as possible, do not cover or obstruct radiators, thermostat valves and perforated radiator covers with furniture, documents (including books, files, folders) or vases, etc., because this can cause heat to accumulate. Warm air must be able to circulate freely from the radiator into the room. The thermostat valve must not be located in an area where heat accumulates: otherwise, the measured temperature will be too high. If this is not possible, you must use a model with a remote sensor. The sensor is placed on the wall so it measures the effective room temperature.

Blocked valve pin



Example of a blocked valve pin (see the arrow) that can be released by gently tapping it with a rubber mallet. Under no circumstances should you pull the pin out manually.

Programmable thermostat valves

With programmable thermostat valves (known as “smart devices”), the room temperature can be set higher or lower at specified times. This makes it easy to heat single rooms individually.

“Island” systems

The time schedule is programmed directly on the thermostat valve. You can enter the schedule directly on the thermostat valve, or with your smart phone via Bluetooth.

Networked systems

In networked systems, the individual thermostat valves communicate wirelessly with a base station that can activate and control each radiator thermostat individually. The base station is connected to the internet and it can be controlled conveniently from a central unit (e.g. the technical building services office).



Additional information

- [Smart heating: how to optimise your heating system](#)