

# Repairs: Heating

Do you know if your heating system uses gas or electricity, and whether it is an individual system or a communal one?

Gas central heating systems need electricity for the pump and controls, so power cuts or electrical problems can affect them.

If one radiator is not heating up or is cold in one of the corners, check that it is turned on. It may help to bleed the radiator.

## How to Bleed a Radiator

1. Turn off your heating.
2. Find a radiator key (if you don't have one these, they can be bought from any hardware or DIY store for a few pounds).
3. At the top of the radiator at one end there will be a valve. You can attach the radiator key to the square bit in the centre.
4. Hold the key with a cloth and have another cloth or a bowl ready to catch any drips.
5. Slowly turn the radiator key anti-clockwise. If air is escaping, you'll hear a hissing sound.
6. When water begins to dribble out you will know that all the air has been let out of the radiator.
7. Once water dribbles out you will need to close the valve by turning it back to its original position.
8. Turn the heating back on and check the radiator after a couple of hours to make sure it is heating up properly.

