

SCARF is a company limited by guarantee (No 94819) and a registered charity (No: SCO 006901)

## Fact Sheet

### REF: 408 USE OF ELECTRIC STORAGE HEATERS

Storage heaters have an insulated casing, which contains thermal blocks with electric elements running through them. These elements are heated up during charge periods. Insulation keeps most of the heat stored within the storage heater.

At the top of the storage heater there is a flap or damper, which can be opened, using the Output/Boost Control to let more heat out. The more the flap or damper is opened the faster the stored heat will escape into the room. It is not possible to stop the storage heater giving off heat once it is charged but the rate can be controlled by setting the flap or damper.

Most storage heaters have two controls, an **INPUT** (sometimes called **Charge** or **Auto Set controls**) and an **OUTPUT** (sometimes called **Boost** or **Room Temperature controls**).

#### CONTROL OF STORAGE HEATERS

**INPUT CONTROL** - Controls how much heat is stored in the heater during charge periods and therefore how much electricity is used. The INPUT CONTROL sets a thermostat inside the heater, which turns off the electricity when this set temperature has been reached. In cold weather a high INPUT setting may be required to store adequate heat for release throughout the day. In milder weather the INPUT setting should be reduced so that less heat is stored using less electricity and reducing costs.

**OUTPUT CONTROL** - Increasing the setting of the OUTPUT CONTROL will open the flap or damper at the top of the heater. On a high setting the stored heat will escape quickly. On a lower setting the stored heat will leave the heater slowly and will last longer. The flap or damper should be kept closed during charge periods. Remember also to turn the output control back to the lowest setting before going to bed so heat can be stored for use later. Some storage heaters have an automatic output control, which adjusts the opening and closing of the flap or damper. There may also be an electric fan on the storage heater, which is operated by a programmed room thermostat. If the room temperature falls below the setting on the room thermostat the electric fan will come on to increase the heat leaving the storage heater.

#### COMBI STORAGE HEATER

Some storage heaters have been combined with a convector heater. In this case there will be two on/off wall switches and these should be identified, one for the storage heater, one for the convector heater.

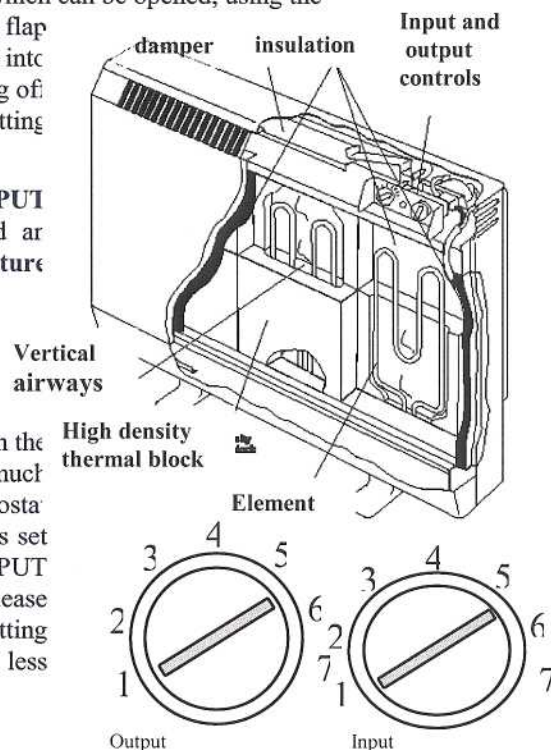
#### CONVECTOR / PANEL HEATER

These may be part of an electric heating system and will have an on/off wall switch, another on/off switch on the heater and a temperature control. Some convector/panel heaters also have a time clock and can be linked to a programmed room thermostat as described above.

#### STORAGE HEATER TARRIFS

There is a range of electricity tariffs for storage heating systems, which give lower unit costs during charge periods.

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#### Mission Statement

SCARF aims to work through partnership to promote sustainable use of energy, eradicate fuel poverty and create sustainable employment and training opportunities.

#### Core Objectives

- + To provide free impartial and accessible energy efficiency advice and information services to help save energy, save cash and help save the environment.
- + To encourage investment in energy efficiency and renewable energy measures and grant take up for property improvements to achieve affordable warmth.
- + To create sustainable employment and training opportunities.

#### SCARF Provides

**One Stop Energy Advice Shop** offers free impartial advice and information:

- + Energy efficiency in the home, business and the community
- + Renewable energy in the home, business and the community
- + Grants for loft and cavity wall insulation
- + Grants for draughtproofing
- + Grants for central heating
- + Grants for renewable energy installations
- + Paying for fuel and fuel suppliers
- + Choice and operation of heating and hot water systems

#### SCARF also offers:

- + Home visits
- + Home energy checks
- + Presentations and informal training
- + NVQ and City & Guilds Qualifications

