

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

Fact Sheet

REF: 409 USING ELECTRIC WARM-AIR HEATING

(Also known as "Electricaire" or "Airdun")

HOME HEATING

Warm-air heating operates on the principle of storing heat overnight, with electricity supplied to the heating units when cheap rate electricity is available. The heat is then used when required during the day. The heat required is blown by a fan into living areas through adjustable warm-air vents or grilles. Operation of the fan depends on the setting of the room thermostat.

CONTROLS

The control on the front of the heating unit regulates the amount of heat stored during charge/off peak times. The fan on/off and speed controls are found on the heating unit.

The required temperature is reached by setting the room thermostat, which will generally be in the hall or the living room. This thermostat automatically switches the fan on and off. Individual heating requirements vary from house to house but in general, for efficient operation, the thermostat setting should not exceed 70°F/21°C. Economy can be achieved by turning down the room thermostat overnight, or when the house is unoccupied. A minimum setting of 50°F/10°C is recommended.

A room thermostat setting of 55°F/13°C prevents the house from getting too cold and enables comfort conditions to be quickly obtained when the room thermostat is increased to a higher setting. To achieve this, the fan speed control on the heating unit can be set to "boost" for a short period until the required comfort level is obtained, then switched back for normal operation.

Some electric warm-air heating systems include a time switch control, which can be set to suit individual needs.

Throughout late autumn and winter ensure that the heating unit and fan controls are switched permanently 'ON'. Turn the heating control to the highest setting only during extremely cold weather, reducing it towards a low setting in milder weather.

COSTS

Electricity for warm-air heating is supplied by Scottish Hydro Electric on two different packages, code 63 unit cost 4.67p and code 67 unit cost 6.01p. All other units are Standard Domestic 6.98p per unit. (Prices are Scottish Hydro Electric and include 5% VAT)

OFF PEAK TIMES

Off peak times apply to the space and water heating only. In some cases water heating is not on an off peak unit cost it is Domestic Standard Unit cost.

Code 63: (B) 8 Hours overnight, 2 x 1hr during the day

Code 67: (D) 12 Hours overnight, 1 x 3hr or 2 x 1hr during the day and 48 hrs continuous over weekend.

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

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