

GENERAL CARE AND MAINTENANCE OF RADIATORS

1. An Australian Hydronics heating system requires a minimum of maintenance.
2. When cleaning Radiators the use of a clean damp cloth with a non-abrasive cleaning agent is all that is usually required to keep radiators clean. Use a vacuum cleaner with brush attachment or duster to remove dust.
3. When cleaning around radiators (i.e. floor or walls) avoid leaving any residue from cleaning products (in particular bleaches) on the radiators, as this may react over time with the radiator paint and cause lifting of the paint and ultimately external rusting.
4. 'Wet Areas' all bathroom/spa areas should have fans fitted to avoid steam and condensation continually collecting on the radiator, which over time may cause external rusting to the radiator. If the radiator is damp, wipe dry with a soft cloth.
5. The system should be leak free so that fresh water and oxygen are not continuously being introduced into the system causing corrosion. The installer can use a water treatment product like Fernox when commissioning the system. The PH level should be neutral and should be checked every two years and more often in open vented systems.
6. **The boiler and the system should be checked after the first season, then every two years, and more often in open vented systems.**
7. The area around the boiler should be clear of any rubbish, chemicals or any inflammable materials. A well maintained heating system will last much longer and give reliable service.

PROBLEM SOLVING

1. A panel radiator needs a continuous flow of hot water to work effectively.
2. If the radiator is hot at the bottom but cold at the top - bleed the air out. (Refer to air bleeding section below).
3. If the radiator or piping system is noisy, check for air in the system. Switch the boiler / circulator off and allow the air to settle to the top of the radiators. Then bleed the air from the radiator. Displacing air from the radiators may mean the system requires re-pressurisation, call your installer or our Service Department for further instructions.
4. A radiator may be hot only at maximum heat output. A warm radiator may indicate that the boiler has switched off, modulated to a lower heat rating or the thermostatic valve, if fitted, has adjusted the output down to suit the required room conditions.
5. Noise coming from the boiler usually indicates that the water flow is very low or that there may be a blockage. The blockage can be caused by sludge or all the valves turned down or off. This noise is called kettling and generally starts off as banging in the heat exchanger and can be heard all around the house. Turn the system off immediately and call your service technician.
6. This situation can be dangerous to the boiler, house and personnel and must be fixed before turning on again.

AIR BLEEDING

1. Switch off heating system and allow the water to settle for approximately 12 hours.
2. Go to each radiator in turn opening the small air vent using an air bleed key and use a bowl or cup to catch any water that bubble out.
3. The water may be black in colour and could stain any surface contacted.
4. As soon as air bubbles cease, turn off the air vent. It should not be necessary to run water from the radiator to clear the air.