

Bleeding a radiator

Radiators need to be able to circulate hot water in order to work properly. Sometimes, air gets trapped in the radiator, which stops the radiator being efficient.

You'll be able to tell if your radiator needs bleeding if it's cold at the top and warm at the bottom. Sometimes the radiator may also make 'gurgling' sounds.

To bleed a radiator you will need to buy a radiator key - these are very cheap and can be bought from DIY shops like Wilko or B&Q.

How to bleed a radiator

- Make sure your heating is off, so you don't risk scalding yourself.
- Put down an old towel in case water comes out.
- Using the radiator bleed key, open the bleed valve. This is usually found at the top of the radiator and looks like a round hole with a square inside.
- Carefully turn the valve anti-clockwise, keeping well back as the air may be hot.
- You only need to open it a half-turn at most - don't open it too much to prevent water coming out.
- As you turn the valve, air will come out - you will hear it hiss.
- Be prepared to close the bleed valve quickly as soon as the air stops coming out. Turn the bleed valve clockwise to seal it, but be careful not to tighten it too much.
- You may need to re-pressurise your boiler after bleeding your radiators. Find out more about how to re-pressurise your boiler in our self-help guide "Boiler pressure".