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In recent years storage heaters have made great advances in efficiency and control technology. The principle of storage heater is that a heavy mass core is heated overnight using cheap rate electricity. This core is made of a high density Iron Oxide compound that gives up heat very gradually. During the day different levels of heat can be achieved by adjustment of the output controls. All heaters now have integral adjustable electronic room thermostats. More advanced intelligent controls now mean that heating a building using storage heaters, exceeds Part L of the building regulations for energy efficiency and controllability.

Extended tariff electricity and split daytime tariff electricity has improved the flexibility of the use of storage heaters, giving them a daytime 'boost' facility. Many storage heaters incorporate a cross flow fan which can take heat from the retained heat in the core or from a separate heating element.

Most natural gas boilers are suitable for Propane LPG fuel options and require only a change of burner nozzle. Many boilers are now able to run in conjunction with solar panels where gas forms the secondary top up, heat source. Solar smart combi boilers are now being produced by many boiler manufacturers. Other new features available are economisers, or top box gas savers, where even more heat is recovered from flue gases by incorporation of a secondary heat exchanger.

In recent years hybrid versions of combination boilers have evolved whereby a small amount of water storage is provided within the casing of the boiler. These are known as storage combination boilers.

Fluing technology has advanced significantly in recent years with telescopic and concentric flues, which have made the heating installer's life much easier. Many vertical flues tend to be open flues with most wall mounted boilers having horizontal room sealed flues. Flue fittings are available in many configurations for the differing circumstances of each boiler installation. Gases leave high efficiency boilers at lower temperatures, which can cause condensation problems on nearby windows for example. Plume management then becomes an issue and plume management kits and accessories are available.

Wet under floor heating systems are ideal for new build construction and ideally run at relatively low temperatures of about 40 degrees centigrade. This makes such systems extremely compatible for use with heat pumps as the main source of heat.

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