



System boilers and combi boiler heating systems

System boilers

There are two types of system boilers – vented low pressure and an unvented high pressure systems. Both require a hot water cylinder. Vented system boilers require a storage tank but most of the other components are held in the unit itself, which means that installation is quick and cheap. Besides, the hot primary water is pumped through the system to the radiators, which results in a faster response and more economical running costs. Unvented system boilers incorporate the equipment necessary to form a sealed system including a pressure relief valve and a pressure gauge, removing the need for a feed and expansion tank.

Combi boiler heating systems

The main difference between a combi boiler (combination boiler) and any other type of boiler is that a combi eliminates the need to store hot water. It is both a high-efficiency water heater and central heating boiler, combined within one compact unit which usually sits in the kitchen or utility room, or sometimes in the airing cupboard. The space savings result from the fact there is no hot water storage cylinder, cold water storage cistern or other familiar components of a regular (conventional) heating system. Combi boiler heating systems run on mains pressure water. Another benefit with the combi is that, due to its running from the mains water supply, you can create an effective power shower without the need for a pump.

Finally, combi boilers require the least amount of plumbing.

(Adapted from *DIY Doctor*)



ACTIVITIES

1 Answer the following questions.

- 1 How many types of system boilers are there?
- 2 What are their main features?
- 3 What do combi boiler heating systems run on?
- 4 Do combi boiler heating systems include a water cylinder?

2 Explain in your own words the meaning of the following terms and expressions.

- 1 Storage tank
- 2 Mains water
- 3 Installation
- 4 Benefit
- 5 Plumbing