

Boilers have a lifetime of 10 to 15 years.

From the Energy Saving Trust (June 2006):

'Boilers are amongst the worst offenders when it comes to energy wasters in your home.'

'Boilers alone account for up to a third of all domestic CO₂ emissions.'

'A heating system that uses a high efficiency condensing boiler and with the correct heating controls can save as much as 40% on your fuel bills.'

Energy efficient central heating products enable you to save money on your fuel bills, and they also help the environment by reducing carbon dioxide emissions.

From SEDBUK.com (June 2006):

Seasonal Efficiency of Domestic Boilers in the UK (SEDBUK) was developed under the Government's Energy Efficiency Best Practice Programme with the co-operation of boiler manufacturers, and provides a basis for fair comparison of the energy performance of different boilers.

From April 2005 new boilers are required to have a SEDBUK efficiency rating of A or B.

www.sedbuk.com has information about numerous boiler efficiencies.

The table below shows the effect of variation in boiler efficiency on annual running costs for typical domestic properties in the UK with central heating and a gas boiler. Although the costs in the table are typical for the type of property, there will always be wide variations in individual cases due to climate, exposure, occupancy patterns, heating controls, insulation, and other factors.

Typical Annual Fuel Costs						
	Seasonal efficiency	Flat	Bungalow	Terraced	Semi-detached	Detached
Old boiler (heavy weight)	55%	£267	£341	£354	£397	£550
Old boiler (light weight)	65%	£231	£293	£304	£340	£470
New boiler (non-condensing)	78%	£197	£249	£258	£289	£396
New boiler (condensing)	88%	£178	£224	£232	£259	£355

What is a high efficiency condensing boiler?

High efficiency condensing boilers convert more than 88% of their fuel into heat, compared to 78% for conventional types.

A high efficiency condensing boiler is a boiler that recovers waste heat which would normally be lost to the atmosphere from conventional boilers.

A condensing boiler will always have a better operating efficiency than a conventional non-condensing one, due to its larger and more efficient heat exchanger.

The Energy Saving Trust has offers and grants information on their website.

FACTS and STATS:

1The older your boiler is, the more inefficient it is likely to be. If it is 15 years or older, you should definitely think about changing it

1Heating and hot water account for over half the cost of the average fuel bill and, unless your home is newly built, your heating system is unlikely to be running as efficiently as it could.

1Replacing an old boiler could save you over a fifth on your fuel bills – and up to 32% if you opt for a condensing boiler

1By upgrading heating controls you will improve the efficiency of any central heating system, and cut your energy wastage and costs by up to 17%. Fit the right heating controls as well as a condensing boiler and you could bump the savings up to 40%

1Hot water will stay hot longer, and you will waste less energy heating it, if you insulate your hot water cylinder. Fitting a jacket to your hot water tank can cut wastage by up to three quarters – a cash saving of up to £15 a year

1Hot water pipes lose heat right the way along, so insulate them wherever you can. Insulating hot water pipes can save up to £5 a year on your fuel bills

1Reducing your heating thermostat by 1°C when you are too warm can cut up to 10% off bills.

1If everyone in the UK with gas central heating installed a condensing boiler, we would cut CO₂ emissions by 17.5 million tonnes, saving £1.3 billion on our energy bills every year. This is enough energy to meet the needs of over 4 million homes for a year

1CO₂ emissions would be cut by 2 million tonnes (11 million double-decker buses) if everyone in the UK put a jacket on their hot water tank

1If everyone in the UK installed a condensing boiler the equivalent energy saved would meet the energy requirements for all the homes in the West Midlands for over a year.

REFERENCES:

1 Energy Saving Trust, June 2006