

AIR SOURCE HEAT PUMPS

Air source heat pumps take heat from the air into a fan-like unit. This is normally found in the garden. The heat is then absorbed into a fluid and put under pressure to raise the temperature.

This makes hot water and powers heating systems. Air source heat pumps work even when the temperature outside is as low as minus 15 degrees.

What do I need to know about heating my home with an air source heat pump?

Air source heat pumps give lower radiator temperatures. They are cooler to touch than radiators heated by gas. This is why homes with an air source heat pump have bigger radiators. They work best when used over a longer time, with the thermostat set at a lower temperature.

Hot water priority

Air source heat pumps prioritise hot water. This means that if the hot water and heating are on at the same time, the hot water will be prioritised. This makes sense as your home should already be at a stable, comfortable temperature.

A Danfoss FP715 Si programmer often installed with air source heat pumps



How do I set my programmer and thermostat?

Your programmer tells the system when to make hot water and when to heat your home. You will also have a thermostat which tells the system how warm you want your home. Remember air source heat pumps work best at a lower temperature, over a longer time. So if you set the thermostat too high, your bills may be more expensive. Different systems have different programmers. If you need your programmer's user guide please contact Freebridge, letting us know the make and model of your programmer.

Your electricity supplier will require readings from you so they can accurately charge you for the energy you use. Remember to read the meter from left to right.

Tips for lower energy bills

Happy paying your gas and electricity supplier more money than you need to?

Thought not. Here are 15 ways to cut your bills...



1) Keep the oven door shut as much as possible; every time you open it, nearly a quarter of the heat escapes.

2) Give your clothes a day in the sun; and give your tumble drier a break. Clothes dried in the fresh air feel great, and there are drying days in winter, too.

3) Food in the oven cooks faster when the air inside flows freely, so don't put foil on the racks.

4) Don't leave your phone on charge all night. It only needs three hours – and try not to leave the TV and other kit on stand-by.

5) Be a friend to your freezer. Defrost it regularly to help it run more efficiently.

6) Catch 'em young. Encourage your children to switch off electric toys and lights that they're not using. They'll soon get the hang of saving energy.

7) Dodge the draught! Fit draught-excluders to your front door, letter box and key hole, and draw your curtains at dusk to keep the heat in.

8) When boiling water, only fill the kettle with as much as you'll actually use (but make sure you cover the metal element at the base).

9) Buying a new TV, washing machine or dishwasher? Look out for the Energy Saving Trust 'recommended' logo, and remember: the bigger the TV, the more energy it'll use.

10) Dimmer is smarter. Use your dimmer switches to reduce the amount of energy used to light your room.

11) Wait until you have a full load before putting on a wash. Two half-loads use more energy (and water) than one full load.

12) Sleep tight. Make sure all the lights are turned off when you go to bed, or use a low-wattage night light if you do need to leave one on.

13) Turn your heating down by 1 degree. You'll hardly notice the change in temperature, but it'll make a big difference to your heating bill.

14) Put your fridge in a good spot. Somewhere the air can circulate behind it, but not next to a cooker or radiator.

15) New computer? Remember a laptop typically uses around 85% less energy than a new desktop PC.

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