



WARM FRONT

Gary Fisher replaces some aging storage heaters with Digi-Line Electric Radiators from Electrorad.

Heating a property is becoming an expensive necessity for us all. Utility bills continue to climb and older inefficient systems may be using up more energy than they need to keep you warm. Add this to the fact that recent winters have been colder and longer and the arguments for replacing a homes' heating with a new efficient system begin to take shape.

When undertaking a heating system replacement clearly most sparks will be avoiding the wet systems, but there are some electric heating alternatives that might fit the bill.



Electric heating

Storage heaters have been around for years and are a reliable, proven technology. However, they also have some

drawbacks – especially the older types. One particular issue is that they require heating up during the off-peak period (normally during the night) so if you have forgotten to turn on the supply to the heater – then no heat in the morning.

An alternative are electric radiators. These units look identical to a conventional

water central heating system radiator, but are electrically controlled. One such option is the Digi-Line electric radiator from Electrorad which are designed and manufactured in Britain. I recently fitted some into a property in London.

Installation

The first job was to remove the homeowner's old storage heaters – a job that can be a real pain. It can be a costly project in itself: dismantling the unit, removing the bricks and disposing of them, plus the weight of the bricks usually make it an awkward job too – this project was no exception.

Fitting the Digi-Line from Electrorad, by comparison, is a breeze. The units come



The units come with a thermal liquid already inside, which transfers the heat from the electric elements without using any moving parts.

double proportional band control (PI & PWM) which is accurate to ± 0.1 degC. To make sure there is no heat from the radiator to affect the room temperature reading, it is sensed below the radiator where the room air temperature is at its lowest.

Each radiator thermostat also has a radio frequency receiver built in, so central control of all the units can be set-up by using the optional 4 zone radio frequency central programmer which is battery powered and uses radio frequency signals to communicate with the radiators so no wiring is required. Individual units can also be controlled via the control panel on the side of the DigiLine radiator.

Read on

If you are actively considering fitting an electrical radiator, you'll probably benefit from some more reading so you understand how to balance all the heaters for optimum heating output in each area.

On our project, once they were fitted on the wall they looked beautiful, the appearance was just like a lovely clean enamel finish – although the radiator is actually constructed in steel and powder coated. This should ensure a long lasting and robust finish.

Overall the DigiLine from ElectroRad is a nice package. While we will not be saying goodbye to storage heating for a long time, these electric radiators are certainly a good option.

with a thermal liquid already inside, which transfers the heat from the electric elements without using any moving parts. Supplied with 1.5m of pre-wired flex all you have to do is fit them onto the brackets you will have already positioned on the wall – just like you would do for a storage heater or radiator. To do a really good job we wired them into an electrical circuit – but they come with a plug supplied.

The units work on a 24hour electrical system, so no need for time clocks,

economy 7 etc... The wattage of the units vary depending on their size – in turn dependant on where in the property you are locating each unit. The range is available in 500 & 300mm heights and power ratings from 500 watts to 2,000 watts. You may need to watch the loading on any one circuit. It may be necessary to wire a new circuit just for the new radiators.

Controls

The thermostat within the Digi-Line is a

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