



EMPOWERING

DISADVANTAGED YOUNG ADULTS

GENERAL DIY

ADVICE GUIDE

CONTENTS

- **[WE ONLY HAVE ONE PLANET EARTH](#)**
- **[THE PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT](#)**
- **[CUSTOMER RECOMMENDATIONS](#)**
- **[HOW TO FIND AND USE YOUR OUTSIDE STOP VALVE](#)**
- **[MAINTAINING YOUR EXTERNAL AND INTERNAL STOP COCKS](#)**
- **[GAS METER](#)**
- **[COMPREHENSIVE PLUMBING AND HEATING SOLUTIONS](#)**
- **[HEATING TIPS](#)**
- **[HEATING GUIDELINES](#)**
- **[PROACTIVE MAINTENANCE APPROACH](#)**
- **[SAVE MONEY BY BECOMING A PH247 MEMBER](#)**
- **[NEED MORE ADVICE?](#)**

WE ONLY HAVE ONE PLANET EARTH

As a plumbing and heating company committed to eco-friendliness, we deeply revere our only planet, Earth. In light of this, we urge you to refrain from printing this document.

The act of printing documents carries an array of adverse consequences for the environment, including:



Devastating Deforestation:

Paper production necessitates the felling of trees, leading to the depletion of oxygen-generating giants. This not only diminishes the presence of vital tree life but also obliterates the sanctuaries of various wildlife and disrupts delicate ecosystems.



Energy Drain:

The manufacturing, transportation, and disposal of paper and ink consume vast amounts of energy. This energy consumption contributes to the emission of greenhouse gases and exacerbates climate change.



Thirsty Water Consumption:

Paper production demands copious amounts of water, placing strain on local water sources and exacerbating water scarcity in certain regions. Moreover, the chemicals employed in the paper production process can contaminate waterways and harm aquatic ecosystems.



Airborne Pollution:

The printing process releases volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and other atmospheric pollutants. These pollutants contribute to air pollution and can harm the health of both humans and wildlife.



Prolific Waste Generation:

Printed documents often meet their unfortunate demise as waste, contributing to the accumulation of landfills. Paper waste occupies valuable space within these landfills and emits methane gas as it decomposes, a potent greenhouse gas.



Toxic Chemical Contamination:

Printing involves the utilisation of inks and toners that may contain toxic substances, such as heavy metals and volatile organic compounds. Improper disposal of these materials can lead to pollution of soil and water.



Financial and Environmental Price:

Printing documents necessitates consuming resources such as paper, ink, and energy. The production and disposal of these resources come with monetary and environmental associated costs.

Acknowledging these detrimental impacts makes it evident that diminishing printing practices and advocating for digital alternatives can yield significant environmental benefits.

THE PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

Our main goal with this document is to address any worries and offer hassle-free service. We strongly believe that prevention is superior to cure. Hence, we take every chance to educate you to make you more energy-efficient and reduce unnecessary expenses.

PH247 Quote

“

**PREVENTION IS
BETTER THAN
CURE!**

”



HOW TO FIND AND USE YOUR OUTSIDE STOP VALVE

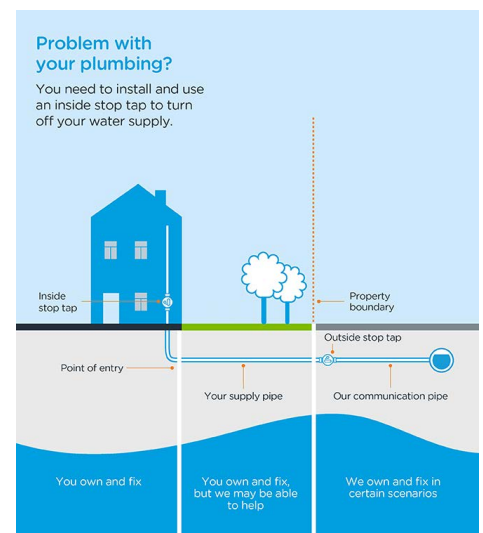
To protect your home, it would be best to always have a working inside stop valve. Use this as the primary way to turn your water on and off.

Your outside stop valve, also known as your stopcock or stop tap, controls the cold water supply to your home. You should only use it in an emergency, such as if the supply pipe between the inside and outside stop valves leaks.

How to find your outside stop valve

Your outside stop valve is usually under a cover on the path or the road. It can also be:

- In the same area as your water meter
- At the end of your road. This is common if your house is old and you share a supply with your neighbours.



The image below shows typical covers.



For more information regarding your external stop cock please click on the link below:

For more
information

Click Me



<https://www.thameswater.co.uk/help/water-and-waste-help/how-to-turn-your-water-on-and-off/how-to-find-and-use-your-outside-stop-valve>

MAINTAINING YOUR EXTERNAL AND INTERNAL STOP COCKS

Maintaining the Functionality of Your External and Internal Stop Cocks

To guarantee the safety and efficiency of your water supply, it is strongly advised to regularly maintain both your external and internal stop cocks.

Maintenance of the External Stop Cock:

It is crucial to perform an annual inspection of your external stop cock to ensure that it remains free from any accumulation of water or mud. If you have a key, please confirm its presence and test the stop cock to ensure its proper functioning. This preventive measure will ensure that you can safely isolate the water supply in case of an emergency.

If you encounter any issues, such as a missing key, a stop cock filled with water, or difficulty locating your boundary stop cock, it is recommended to contact your local authority promptly. They will assist you without any additional cost.



Upkeep of the Internal Stop Cock:

One essential annual maintenance step that should not be overlooked is to spray your internal stop cock with WD40 and smoothly toggle it on and off. This simple yet crucial action prevents the stop cock from getting stuck in the open position, thus protecting your property from potential water damage during emergencies.

By following these recommended maintenance routines for both your external and internal stop cocks, you will ensure the safety, functionality, and durability of your water supply system.



GAS METER

Knowing the location of your gas meter is essential for several reasons:



Safety

In case of a gas leak or emergency, it's crucial to quickly access the gas meter to shut off the gas supply. Familiarity with its location can save valuable time.



Maintenance

Regular checks on your gas meter can help you identify any issues or irregularities, such as leaks or malfunctions. This proactive approach can prevent more significant problems down the line.



Meter Readings

If you are responsible for reporting your gas usage, knowing where the meter is allows you to take accurate readings regularly and ensure you are billed correctly.



Access for Technicians

Utility companies often service gas meters. Knowing where your meter is can facilitate access for routine maintenance or emergency repairs.



Home Insurance

In the event of damage or a claim related to gas leaks, insurance providers may require you to know the location of your gas meter to assess the situation.



Home Renovations

Knowing your gas meter's location can help avoid accidental damage during construction if you plan renovations or landscaping.

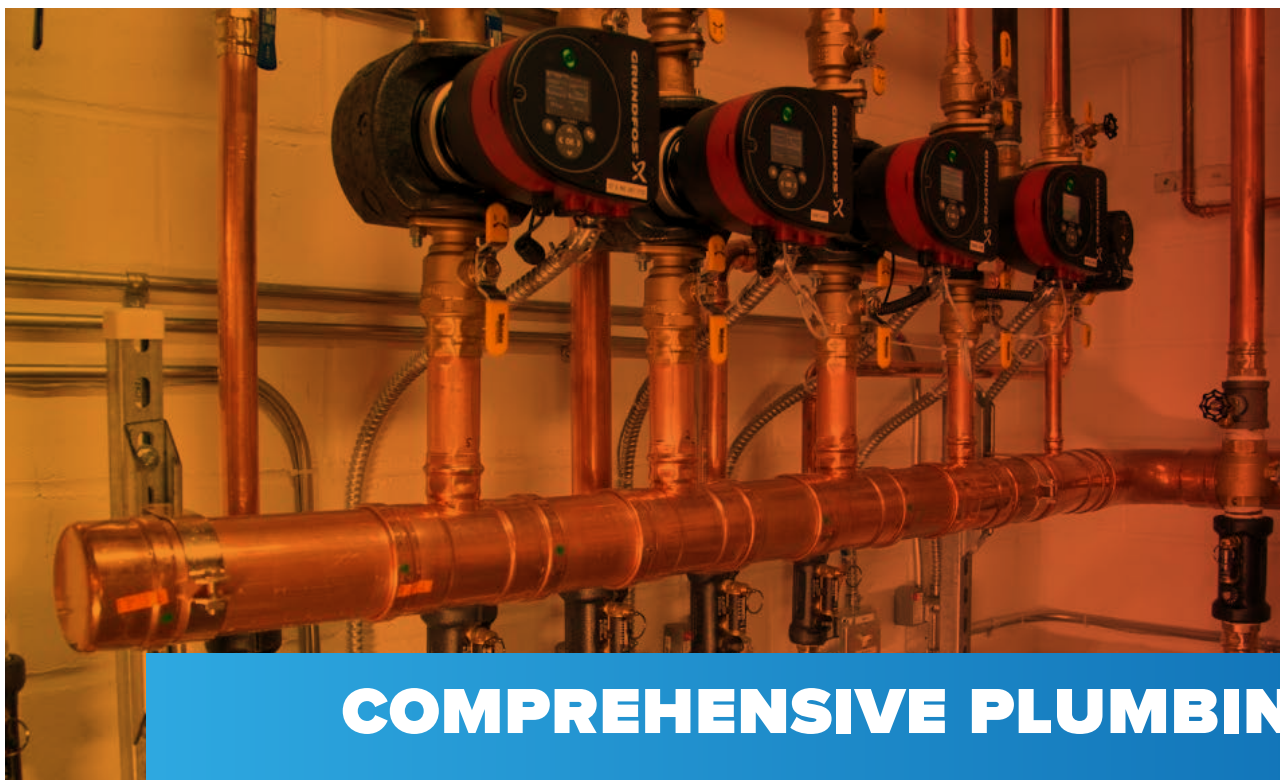
Awareness of your gas meter's location contributes to safety, efficiency, and peace of mind in managing your home utilities.

For more information regarding your gas meter, please click on the link below:

4 Different Meter Types Explained | Stay Energy Safe

Click Me

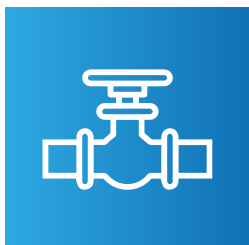




COMPREHENSIVE PLUMBING AND HEATING SOLUTIONS

These recommendations and tips are ideal for homeowners, tenants, landlords and property managers.

Plumbing Recommendations:



Identify Your Main Water Shut-Off Valve

Knowing the location of your main water shut-off valve is crucial in emergencies, such as burst pipes. This valve, typically found in basements, garages, or near water meters, can help prevent substantial water damage by allowing you to turn off the water supply quickly.



Regular Leak Inspections

Inspect faucets, toilets, and pipes for signs of water damage, dripping, or moisture. Even small leaks can waste water and lead to mould growth or structural issues. Consider using a moisture meter for more accurate detection.



Drain Maintenance

To maintain clear drains, avoid pouring grease, coffee grounds, or food scraps down the sink. Drain covers can prevent hair and debris from entering the pipes, reducing clogs. Regularly clean drains with hot water and natural cleaners to ensure proper flow.



Flush Your Cylinder and Water Heater Annually

Sediment and limescale buildup in your cylinder and water heaters can decrease efficiency and lead to malfunctions. Flushing involves draining the tank and removing the settled sediment, which can improve heating efficiency and extend the unit's lifespan.



Insulate Exposed Pipes

Insulating pipes can prevent them from freezing during cold months, avoiding costly repairs. Use foam pipe insulation or heat tape, particularly in unheated areas like attics or crawl spaces.



Utilise a Plumber's Snake

A plumber's snake, a flexible tool that can reach deep into pipes, is more effective for tough blockages than chemical cleaners, which can potentially harm the pipes.



Understand Your Pipe Materials

Different pipe materials, such as PVC, copper, and PEX, have varying lifespans and maintenance needs. Knowing the type of pipes in your home can help you make informed decisions about repairs and upgrades and identify potential issues.



Use Baking Soda and Vinegar

This natural method can help clear minor clogs and maintain drain hygiene. The reaction between baking soda and vinegar can dislodge debris, which can then be washed away by flushing with hot water.



Install Water Hammer Arrestors

Water hammers, caused by sudden changes in water flow, can damage pipes and cause noise. Installing water hammer arrestors can absorb the shock, preventing these issues.



Check for Toilet Leaks

Toilet leaks can waste significant water. The food colouring test is a quick way to detect leaks without disassembling the toilet. If the colour appears in the bowl, the flapper may need replacement.



Exercise Caution with Chemical Cleaners

While these products can provide quick fixes, they often contain harsh chemicals that can corrode pipes and harm the environment. Opt for biodegradable or natural alternatives whenever possible.



Recognise Signs of Clogged Sewer Lines

Multiple backed-up drains can indicate a severe issue with your sewer line. Early intervention by a professional can prevent costly repairs and health hazards from sewage exposure.

HEATING TIPS

Knowing the location of your gas meter is essential for several reasons:



Schedule Annual System Maintenance

Regular professional maintenance of your heating system can identify and address issues before they become significant problems, ensuring efficient operation. This includes cleaning components, checking for leaks, and ensuring safety mechanisms are functional.



Replace Filters Regularly

Dirty filters restrict airflow, making your heating system work harder and less efficiently. Check filters monthly during peak usage and replace or clean them as needed to maintain good air quality and efficiency.



Seal Drafts

Inspect for drafts around windows and doors using a candle or smoke stick. Use weather stripping, caulking, or insulation to seal gaps, significantly reducing heating costs by keeping warm air inside.



Install Programmable Thermostats

Programmable thermostats allow you to set specific heating schedules that align with your daily routines, reducing energy consumption when you're not home. Smart thermostats can even adjust settings based on your habits.



Ensure Vents Are Unobstructed

Furniture, curtains, and other objects can block heating vents, leading to uneven heating and higher energy bills. Ensure all vents are clear to allow for optimal airflow throughout your home.



Explore Zone Heating Options

Zone heating involves using separate thermostats for different areas of your home, allowing you to heat only the spaces you use. This can lead to significant energy savings, especially in larger homes.



Monitor Indoor Humidity

Maintaining indoor humidity levels between 30% and 50% can enhance comfort and reduce heating costs. A humidifier can help in dry winter, while a dehumidifier may be necessary in humid seasons.



Evaluate Home Insulation

Insulation helps retain heat and reduces energy costs. Check your attic, walls, and floors for adequate insulation, and consider upgrading if necessary. Energy audits can help assess your home's insulation needs.



Utilise Ceiling Fans Wisely

Running ceiling fans in a clockwise direction at low speed pushes warm air down from the ceiling, helping to keep the room warm without overworking your heating system.



Avoid Heat Sources Near Thermostats

Heat sources like lamps or electronics can cause thermostats to give inaccurate readings, leading to inefficient heating. Position thermostats away from these heat sources for better temperature regulation.



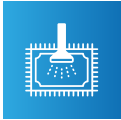
Bleed Radiators

Trapped air can prevent radiators from heating evenly. Bleeding involves releasing this air to improve heating efficiency. This is typically done using a radiator key to open the valve at the top of the radiator.



Seal Ductwork

Leaky ducts can lead to significant energy loss. Inspect ductwork for visible gaps or signs of wear and seal any leaks with mastic or metal tape to ensure efficient heating distribution.



Incorporate Area Rugs

Area rugs can provide insulation on hard flooring, helping to keep warmth in and create a more comfortable atmosphere. They can also add style to your home decor.

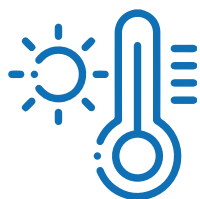


Consider Energy-Efficient Upgrades

Upgrading to energy-efficient heating systems can significantly reduce energy bills and environmental impact.



**Programmable thermostats
allow you to set specific heating
schedules**





HEATING GUIDELINES



Schedule Annual System Maintenance

Have your heating system serviced by a professional once a year to maintain optimal efficiency.



Clean filters regularly

Clean your heating filter on a yearly basis. This will improve and maintain maximum performance and efficiency of your heating system.



Seal Drafts

Inspect windows and doors for drafts and seal any gaps to prevent heat loss, which can lead to increased energy bills.



Install Programmable Thermostats

Programmable thermostats can help manage heating schedules effectively and lower energy consumption.



Ensure Vents Are Unobstructed

To facilitate proper airflow, keep vents and radiators clear of furniture and curtains.



Explore Zone Heating Options

For larger homes, consider zone heating to warm only the used areas.



Monitor Indoor Humidity

Using a humidifier during winter can help maintain comfortable indoor humidity levels, as dry air can make your home feel colder.

PROACTIVE MAINTENANCE

APPROACH



Regular Inspections

Conduct routine inspections of plumbing systems, including pipes, fixtures, and fittings, for leaks or wear. Inspect heating systems, including boilers and radiators, for any signs of corrosion or malfunction.



Leak Detection and Repair

Identify and fix leaks in pipes, faucets, and toilets. Address hidden leaks behind walls or under floors.



Drain Cleaning

Clear clogged drains and pipes using appropriate methods (snaking, hydrojetting). Schedule regular drain cleaning to prevent future blockages.



Water Heater & Cylinder Maintenance

Flush the water heater annually to remove sediment and limescale buildup. Check the sacrificial rod and replace it if necessary.



Heating System Maintenance

Clean or replace furnace filters regularly. Schedule annual servicing for boilers and heating units to ensure efficiency.



Thermostat Calibration

Check and calibrate thermostats to ensure accurate temperature readings. Replace old or malfunctioning thermostats.



Pipe Insulation

Insulate exposed pipes to prevent freezing during colder months. Check insulation for any damage and replace it as needed.



Radiator Maintenance

Bleed radiators to remove trapped air and improve efficiency. Inspect for leaks or corrosion.



Sump Pump Testing

Test sump pumps regularly to ensure proper operation and clean sump pits to prevent blockages.



Emergency Preparedness

Keep emergency numbers for plumbing and heating services readily available. Have a plan in place for addressing major plumbing or heating failures.

Implementing this comprehensive approach to proactive maintenance can significantly reduce the need for reactive repairs and extend the lifespan of your plumbing and heating systems.

SAVE MONEY

AND BECOME A PH247 MEMBER

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PH247 ELITE SERVICE PLAN



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