

WHAT TO DO IF THE HEATING HAS FAILED

OFFICIAL UPDATES LU-Alert · RTL, 100.7 · 112

DO THIS NOW

- 1** Check whether nearby homes have heating. If the neighbours have no heating or power either, listen to **RTL, 100.7** for news. If it is only your boiler, call a heating engineer or, in a flat, the building management.
- 2** Choose one room to keep warm, ideally a small one away from the outside walls, and bring everyone into it. Close the doors to the other rooms.
- 3** Keep the heat in. Close shutters and curtains, hang a blanket over the window, lay rugs on the floor and block draughts under doors.
- 4** Put on layers, a hat, gloves and warm socks. Drink something hot, eat regularly, and avoid alcohol.
- 5** Never heat the home with a gas cooker, an oven, a barbecue or a camping stove. Use only heaters made for indoor use, let some fresh air in, and switch them off before you sleep.
- 6** Stop the pipes freezing. Let a tap run a little now and then, and wrap pipes in the garage, cellar or other unheated spaces.
- 7** Check on neighbours who are older, ill or alone. If your home gets too cold to stay in, go to family or friends, or ask your commune whether a heated shelter is open.

BEFORE

KNOW HOW FAST YOUR HOME COOLS

- In winter, a home with no heating can fall below **10 °C** within **1–4 days**. A light wooden house cools fastest, a thick stone house slowest.
- Most central heating needs electricity, even when it burns gas, oil or pellets. Ask your installer or building management whether yours works in a power cut. If not, a power cut means no heating too: see **Power is out**.

STOCK THE BASICS

- Blankets or sleeping bags for everyone, plus warm layers, hats and gloves.
- A way to make hot drinks: a gas camping stove with spare cartridges, for use outdoors or on the balcony only, and a vacuum flask.
- Torches, a battery or wind-up radio and a charged power bank. See the **emergency kit checklist**.
- If you heat with wood, pellets or oil, keep enough fuel for at least **7 days**.
- A backup heater only if it is approved for indoor use, and a carbon monoxide alarm

on every level where people sleep. See **Carbon monoxide**.

PREPARE THE HOME

- Insulate pipes, outside taps and the water meter in unheated places.
- Know where the main water tap and the main switch are, and how to drain the pipes if you ever have to leave a cold home.
- Agree with family or friends where you could stay if your home becomes too cold. Write it in your **household plan**.

AFTER

- When the heating comes back, turn the thermostat up step by step and check radiators and pipes for leaks.
- If you drained the pipes or they froze, check them, the taps and the water meter
- before you turn the water back on. Call a plumber if a pipe has split.
- Air the rooms where a heater or stove was used, with the windows wide open for a few minutes.
- If anyone felt dizzy or sick while a heater was running, read **Carbon monoxide** and see a doctor.
- Restock fuel, gas cartridges and batteries, and fix the draughts you noticed.

IF YOU ARE...

LOOKING AFTER CHILDREN

- Keep babies and small children in the warm room, dressed in layers with a hat. Check often that they are warm but not sweating.
- Sleep together under blankets, or make a blanket tent for the children.

OLDER, ILL, OR LIVING WITH A DISABILITY

- Do not wait until you are very cold. Ask family, a neighbour or your commune for help early, and move somewhere warm if you can.
- If someone checks on you, agree a time each day. If you live alone, tell a neighbour that your heating is off.

WITH PETS

- Bring pets into the warm room with their bed. Check that their water has not frozen.

IN A FLAT WITH SHARED HEATING

- If the whole building is cold, tell the building management at once, and agree with neighbours who checks on whom.
- In buildings on district or central heating, hot water can become scalding when the power fails. Test the water before a bath or shower.

EASY-READ SUMMARY

-  Stay together in one warm room.
-  Never heat your home with a barbecue or camping stove.
-  Let a tap run a little so the pipes do not freeze.
-  Listen to the radio for news.
-  Check on older neighbours.

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