

Reflective radiator panels

Simple Solutions for Saving Energy: No. 4

Reflective radiator panels are especially useful on uninsulated external walls. They are made from moulded plastic with a reflective coating and reduce heat loss by:

- * Reflecting heat away from the wall
- * Trapping air next to wall to act as insulation
- * Having a ribbed surface to create convection currents, pushing the heat into the room.

What else is available? Reflector sheets which simply hang over radiator brackets are also available. Basic radiator foil (foil sheeting with foam backing) is cheaper but not quite as effective as the panels.

What else can I do to improve my radiators?

- * Thermostatic radiator valves (TRVs) let you control the heat in each room.
- * Avoid blocking radiators with furniture or curtains.
- * Tuck curtains behind radiators or up on windowsills to prevent heat disappearing through the window.
- * A small shelf above a radiator can help deflect rising heat and create warm air currents in the room. This is particularly useful to prevent heat disappearing up the open-plan stairwells.
- * If the top of the radiator is colder than the bottom, there may be air trapped inside. Bleed radiators using a radiator key (cheap to buy from hardware shops) to release the air.



Approximate costs

Panels ~ £25 for 6 panels (total width 3m)

Sheets ~ £16 for 3 sheets (total width 3.6m)

Foil ~ £5 - £10 for 5m



Fitting a reflective radiator panel

What do I need?

- * Tape measure
- * Sharp pair of scissors
- * Double sided sticky tape (usually provided)

What do I do?

1. Clean behind the radiator – dust and debris will prevent the panel from sticking securely. Use a feather duster or a damp cloth on a stick. Leave the wall to dry before attaching the panel.
2. Measure the length of the radiator, then cut your panels into sections of the right size using scissors. Cut sections of the panel so that they fit in between the radiator brackets.
3. Place double sided sticky tape (usually provided with the panels) around the edge of one section of panel. Remove the backing of the tape to expose the sticky side.
4. Slide the panel behind the radiator and press against the wall. If possible, press the panel down on all sides, for example by sliding your hand under the bottom or behind the edge of the radiator.
5. Repeat with sections of panel until the whole of the wall behind the radiator is covered.

Need more help?

For online how-to videos, go to www.youtube.com and search for “reflective radiator panels”.



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