

Glossary

- Back-boiler** A boiler designed to fit into an existing fireplace and usually sold with a gas fire. The boiler works independently of the fire, using the chimney as the basis for the flue. It has a cast-iron heat exchanger.
- Balanced flue** Two types: natural draught and fan-assisted. A natural draught flue is used with a boiler sited on an outside wall. It is used mainly for gas boilers. A fan-assisted flue allows a boiler to be sited away from an outside wall. It is used almost entirely for wall-hung gas boilers. Both types of flue have a duct from the boiler to an outside wall. Separate channels in the duct are used to draw in air for combustion and to expel combusted flue gases. The fan-assisted flue has a small fan to increase air movement.
- Combination boiler** A boiler which heats water instantly as it is required by the central heating system or for domestic hot water. Usually there is no hot water cylinder or tank but some models have a partial water store to improve flow rate. This type of boiler uses a fabricated heat exchanger. Most combination boilers are wall-mounted.
- Condensing boiler** This type of boiler is more efficient than a conventional boiler and cheaper to run (though more expensive to buy). Its increased performance is due, in part, to the additional heat released when water vapour in the flue gas is condensed. Condensing boilers are relatively new to the United Kingdom market.
- Conventional flue** Air for combustion is drawn from within the room in which the boiler is sited and combusted flue gases are vented through a chimney using natural convection. Used for gas, oil and solid fuel boilers.
- Floor-standing boiler** A boiler designed to stand on the floor. It can be positioned under a worktop or concealed in a ventilated standard size floor cupboard. It usually has a cast-iron rather than a fabricated heat exchanger.
- Flue** The means by which combustion gases are vented to the atmosphere. The main types of flue are conventional and balanced.
- Heat exchanger** The part of a gas boiler which converts heat from fuel combustion into water heat. Traditionally it was made from cast-iron. A fabricated heat exchanger is usually made of copper.
- Wall-hung boiler** A compact, lightweight boiler designed to match the dimensions of most kitchen wall cabinets, including wall-hung combination boilers. About 60 per cent have a fabricated heat exchanger and the remainder have cast-iron.
- Warm air boiler or system** A boiler or system which heats air and circulates it around a building through ducts and grilles.
- Wet boiler or system** A boiler heats water which in turn gives out heat through radiators and other heat emitters, eg systems based on floor-standing, wall-hung, combination and back-boilers.