Central Heating – Balancing Radiators

In order to ensure an even distribution of hot water to the radiators in a system you'll need to 'balance the system'. Often the radiators near to the boiler/pump would tend to be warmer than the radiators further away, balancing the system will even out the flow of the hot water. To do this we use the lockshield valve which is normally hidden under a push on cover at one end of the radiator. Adjusting these valves will regulate the flow of water to the radiator. By partially closing the valves, flow to the radiators nearest the boiler can be more limited than to those further away. To reduce the water temperature at the outlet pipe, the lock shield is closed; to increase the temperature the valve is opened up. The idea is to get temperature drop across each radiator to be about 12 C (20 F). The easiest way to measure the temperature drop across the radiators is to use a set of radiator thermometers. These clamp-on thermometers have springs which hook around the inlet and outlet pipes of a radiator. They can be found at any DIY story.Before you begin make sure the system is turned off and let the water cool down.Open the lock shield valve and the control valve using an adjustable spanner closed small. This is the valve you use to turn the radiator on and off. Fit the radiator thermometers to the Inlet and Outlet pipes of the radiator which is nearest to the boiler and switch the heating back on.Close the lockshield valve on the first radiator to almost closed, as the temperature of the systems comes up, gradually open up the valve until the temperature difference between the two radiator thermometers is about 12C (20F)Move the thermometers to the next radiator away from the boiler. Close down the lockshield valve and adjust it until the temperature difference Additional info increases to about 12C (the temperature difference will probably start at less than 12 degrees as both valves are fully open). If you repeat this for all of them in order, you should have a balanced system so that all radiators heat up Hose Bros Inc efficiently. Once the radiators in a system have been balanced, the valves should not need to be adjusted again unless the radiators or the pipes are changed.

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