

# Heat Pumps

Not really suitable for Whinfell

## Parking, Bins and Noise

You have all heard me talk about these three items being the main source of friction when living in a shared accommodation.

The addition of heat pumps adds a great deal to the noise experienced by neighbours.

## The appearance

The heat exchange units are usually fixed to an outside wall, often adjacent to the system tank. That would mean stacks of three units, one on top of another, up the wall.

They can be remote, which makes for a tidier installation, but it will require heavily insulated pipework from the external unit to the internal system.

As not everyone will replace the boiler at the same time, several different types are likely to be used.



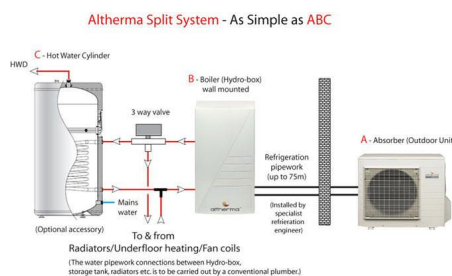
## These are noisy and ugly

Whenever the compressor is engaged and the fan is started up the external element starts making noise. That is whenever the central heating is on or hot water is running.

Should these be installed on the external wall adjacent to current boiler, they will most often be next to someone else's bedroom window.

Anyone who has lived with air-conditioning will be familiar with the compressor noise. Indeed, anyone who has stayed in a discounted room in an hotel will know what the noise is like.

Air Source Water Heaters are simply reverse cycle air-conditioning units.





## Government incentives

The UK Government is giving incentives to encourage people to reduce the CO2 from domestic power consumption.

Heat pumps qualify for a rebate under the [Domestic Renewable Heat Initiative \(DHI\)](#)

There will be no new homes fitted with Gas Water heaters from 2023 and all replacement boilers must be electric by 2035.

Anyone who needs a replacement boiler in the near future will come under a lot of pressure to adopt an electric solution.

It is easy to see that some people will be swayed by generous rebates.

## Not only noisy:

- Most heat pump systems are optimised for under floor heating. Those capable of supplying radiators with the higher temperatures required are the ones with larger compressors and radiators.
- Access will be required for regular servicing of the external unit. With units on the external wall of the kitchen, the top floor ones will be very difficult to work upon.
- Grouping the units together might tidy up the heat exchangers, but it will need a great deal of unsightly piping on the outside of the buildings. Many installations are on flat roofs. That would move all the noise to the upper floors. Likewise, a ground level bank of units would concentrate the noise at the ground floor. Neither of these options seems very fair.
- Should people opt for different units the appearance on external walls will be very messy.

## Better alternatives

Electric Combi boilers are available from many manufacturers. Some require three phase AC, but most will run from a domestic single phase supply.

Here are some links to [Electric Combi Boiler Providers](#)

**Fischer**  
Future Heat  
THE FUTURE IS ELECTRIC

[Fischer Future Heat](#)

**ehc**

the electric heating company

[Electric Heating Company](#)

## **This effects everyone:**

Although this would seem to be an issue that only effects apartment owners, some thought also needs to be given to the houses. The position of a remote heat exchanger might cause a noise problem for neighbours.

Improvements in efficiency are to be encouraged. There is no doubt air sourced water heaters are efficient.

When gas is eliminated as a power source for heating the only alternative at present is electricity. Of course, getting your electricity from a renewable provider is important.

Electric Combi-boilers would seem to be the best option for replacing gas ones in the flats. They are getting more efficient all the time. These Combi boilers are even quieter than the gas ones. They will fit the space taken by current water heaters. They will not need any unsightly external pipework.

## **We need a policy**

The Whinfell Board have adopted a policy:

- Gas water heaters in the apartments are only replaced with similar sized Gas Combi boilers (Until 2035) or Electrical Combi boilers within the apartment.
- Installation of Air Source Heat Pumps in the Houses can only go ahead once the Whinfell Board have considered the impact upon adjacent properties.

This is already covered by the lease. There is a requirement for owners to consult before making changes to the external appearance of the property.

## **We need to inform everyone**

This document is for discussion. Let your board members know what you think.