

Q. Why can I hear water tricking or cascading inside my radiator?

A. If you can hear water cascading, dripping or falling inside your radiator it's because it not full and there are air pockets trapped inside the radiator. Venting alone will not move these.

Some radiators have a baffle or flow diverter fitted by the installer, others come complete with this fitted in the factory. Check with instructions or data sheets supplied if your radiator has specific flow and return connections, this is usually indicated by arrows or a written note stating which connection must have the flow and which must have the return. ('Flow' is water coming into the radiator and 'Return' is water coming out).

Check on the existing pipework to establish which is the flow and which is the return, as these may not match with that required by your radiator.

Also bear in mind that Zehnder Group Thermostatic radiator valves are unidirectional, and they cannot be reverse fitted.(The TRV must be fitted to the flow side).

The problem with tall radiators is that they are often filled too quickly, this results in air being trapped within it.

Venting will not clear this, as it is likely that there is an "equal pressure" at each valve, which means that any air is trapped. The answer is to drain down, check which pipe is the flow and which is the return. These might have to be changed to make sure that the flow is on the correct side of the radiator. Fit the TRV to the flow side and the lock shield to the return.

To fill:-

Close the lock shield valve, open the air vent fully (diagonally opposite the flow) and fill the radiator very slowly so that any air can gently be pushed towards the air vent and be fully evacuated. When water is seen coming from the vent, close this and open the lock shield valve so that the radiator can fill. Run the system and vent.

To achieve the correct flow rate:-

The radiator needs to be balanced by setting the lock shield valve to a temperature approx 10-12°C less than the flow side.

This is achieved by measuring the temp on the flow side (a digital thermometer should be used) make a note of the reading. Go to the lock shield side and either open or close the valve until the temperature reading is 10-12° less than the flow. Once done, lock the valve.

This radiator is now balanced, and will be receiving the correct amount of water to give optimum performance irrespective of it position on the system and relationship to the system pump. The radiator should now be full and warm evenly without any cascading water. If the sounds are still heard, the above sequence may have to be repeated, as it is likely that all of the air was not successfully removed at the first attempt.

Balancing should be completed on every radiator on the system to achieve a balanced system.