

ENERGY EFFICIENCY feature

Catch of the day



Ravenheat's Energycatcher unit.

While modern domestic boilers are very efficient compared to those of 20 years ago, one source of waste heat and pollution that has not so far been addressed by boiler designers is the heat that escapes to the atmosphere through the flue. With the boiler running, these flue gases can exceed 60°C, heat that is literally going up the chimney and not into heating water.

Saving flue gas

Ravenheat's Energycatcher is designed to change all that. It is a small, patented unit that requires no electrical connections and integrates on top of the boiler. The boiler's flue gases, instead of going straight out through the wall at more than 60°C, are fed into the Energycatcher, where they flow

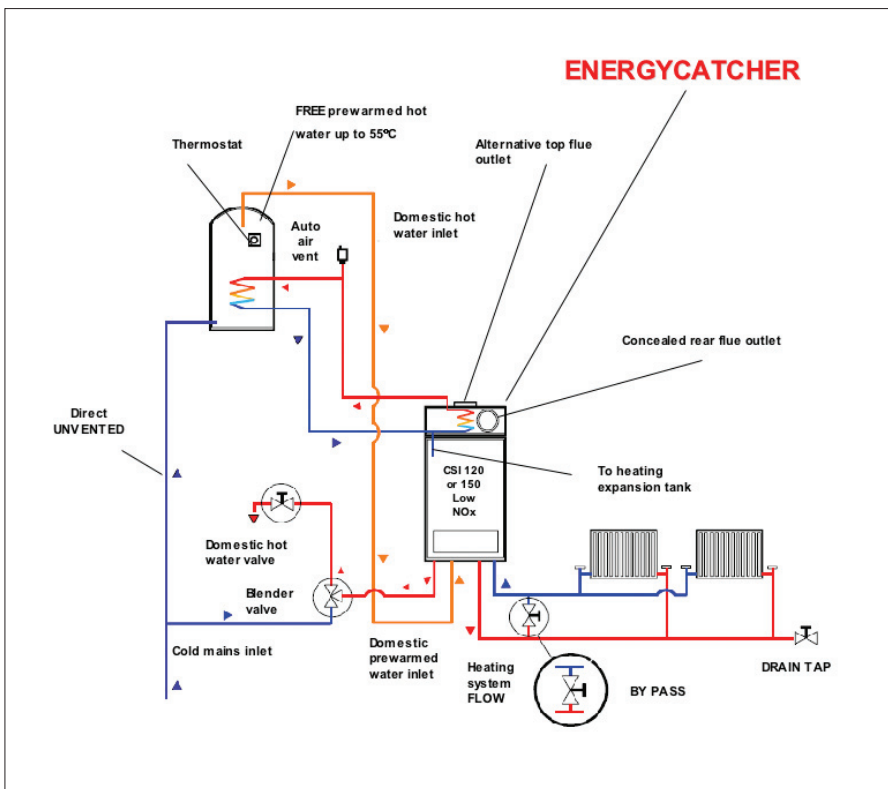
In recent years, boiler manufacturers have worked to drastically improved the efficiency of their products, led by the demands of Part L of the Building Regulations. However, one area that has until now been largely ignored is the wasted heat caused by the flue exhaust of a boiler.

HABM finds out how one manufacturer is looking to solve this problem.

over a heat exchanger. The otherwise wasted heat is transferred to the water in the heat exchanger, which moves under convection into a storage tank. The tank can be of any size to suit the need and, as an example, after the central heating has run for an hour a large tank will be fully heated, giving a good supply of hot water.

The exhaust gases, now considerably cooler, then vent to the atmosphere.

Supposing the householder runs the central heating system in the early morning, so that the house is warmed for breakfast time. All the time the boiler is running, the waste heat in the flue is being transferred to the water in the heat



Vented or unvented installation system layout.