

# Heated Towel Rail - Electrical Element Installation

How to make an electric heated towel rail  
(fixed & variable heat elements)



## Tools Required:

Cloth (to catch excess fluid)  
Flat blade screw driver or bleed key (to suit air vent)  
Allen key or spanner (to tighten air vent / blanking plugs)  
Spanner (suitable to tighten electric element)  
Funnel & jug (to fill towel rail)  
Supply of tap water

## Important Notes:

Only "nip" tight. Do NOT over-tighten threads & seals.  
Towel rails MUST be bled of air & excess fluid before use.  
Elements must be fully submerged. NEVER run dry!  
Elements must only be installed at bottom of towel rail.  
Only to be fitted by competent & qualified installer.  
Instructions are for guidance only.

## STEP 1.

Blank off holes at the top of the towel rail using a blanking plug & air vent (bleed valve) supplied (style may vary). Ensure the bleed valve is closed. Generally the bleed valve would be fitted to the opposite side of the rail to the element (but this is not essential).

Fig. 1 - Air vent & blanking plug & 2 decorative caps from our Premier Range, style may vary with other ranges

Fig. 2 - Blanking plug into top of towel rail

Fig. 3 - Tightening blanking plug

Fig. 4 - Fitting decorative caps



Fig. 1



Fig. 2



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Websites:

[www.smrBathrooms.co.uk](http://www.smrBathrooms.co.uk)

[www.HeatedTowelRails4u.co.uk](http://www.HeatedTowelRails4u.co.uk)



Fig. 3



Fig. 4

### STEP 2.

Turn the towel rail upside down, ensuring the top edge is rested against a protective surface. Now fit the other blanking plug supplied into the threaded hole, on the opposite side of the towel rail to where you require the element to be fitted.

### STEP 3.

Add the entire content of the additive tube supplied (Fig. 5) to the rail, then fill the towel rail with tap water (Fig. 6), to a level around half way up top crossbar. Next, place a thumb over the electrical element hole (Fig. 7) & tip the rail back and forth, allowing trapped air to escape past your thumb. You will find the level has now dropped, top up the rail to around half way up the top crossbar, this allows room for the element to be inserted, in the next step.



Fig. 5



Fig. 6



Fig. 7

#### STEP 4.

Slowly insert the electric element into the towel rail, some fluid may over flow. Hold the cable clear (an extra pair of hand may be useful) & gently screw the element into the threaded hole on the towel rail, paying attention to align both threads and not cross-thread either part.

The element should be screwed finger tight, then using the correct size spanner, gently tighten to seal the joint. Often about a ¼ turn will be suitable on a standard fixed heat element. The variable temperature element has a tapered rubber seal and can be turned to align the control panel to face forwards (important – never twist the case by hand).

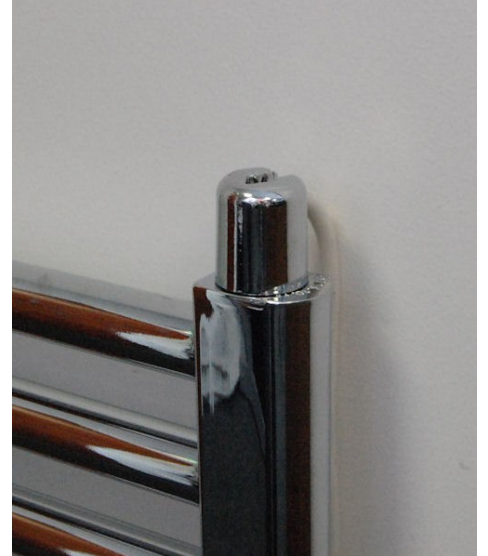
#### Fixed Temperature Element



Screw in finger tight



Nip to seal joint



Fit chrome cover cap

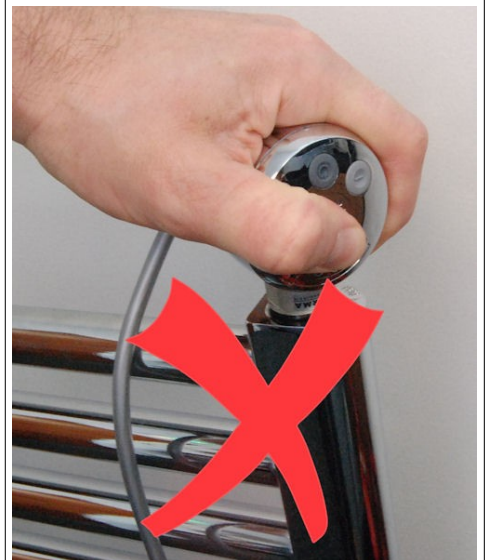
#### Variable Temperature Element



Screw in by hand



Align & seal using spanner



NEVER tighten by hand!

### Caution

When turning the towel rail up the correct way (element at the bottom) ready for fitting onto the wall, ensure you do not rest element or cable against the floor, this may cause damaged.



#### STEP 5.

Attached the supplied brackets to the wall. Connect the element to a suitable isolated power supply.

**IMPORTANT** – a suitably qualified installer must connect the electric element, adhering to the latest installation standards. Your warranty will be void if this operation is not carried out to the correct standard by a fully qualified engineer.

#### STEP 6.

It is very important that ALL air and excess water is purged from the towel rail.

- Before turning on the power supply, open the air vent at the top of the towel rail (flat blade screw driver or bleed key required)
- Ensure adequate protect is in place for yourself and decorated walls & floors, as excess hot water will be expelled from the air vent. This can spit from the air vent
- Attach an old cloth to soak up excess fluid
- Turn on the power supply - If using a variable temperature element ensure it is set to full
- Allow the element to reach full temperature, wait for all excess fluid and air to purge. It could take 2-3 hours to fully circulate and expel all trapped air
- Lock off the air vent to seal the unit. Do NOT over tighten bleed screw. **NOTE: the air vent must be locked off before turning off power, or air will instantly be drawn back into the towel rail.**
- Clean off any excess fluid and your new towel rail is now ready for use.

#### IMPORTANT

These instructions are supplied as guidance only. You should check with the towel rail manufacturer that your towel rail is suitable for this purpose. To ensure your installation meets the legally required standards for your region; planning and installation should only be carried out by a suitably qualified installer.



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