

Putnam Hill

Installing Radiator Temperature Controls

Putnam Hill has only one heating system per building and residents cannot set the temperature for their individual apartments except by having the Superintendent open or close the valve on each radiator unit. Because the radiators are old, Residents cannot alter the valves once, they are set by the Superintendent.

However, we have now identified a simple, cost-effective solution to regulate the flow of steam to individual radiators within an apartment. Residents, who feel their apartments are either too hot or too cold, now have a solution at hand.

The solution requires the installation of hardware consisting of a thermostatic radiator valve, which is placed on each individual radiator and a thermostatic control, (dial-like device), which is mounted adjacent on the wall. The valve and thermostatic control form an integrated unit connected by a small capillary tube. The control operates mechanically such that the solution will continue to function effectively during a power failure. Depending upon the design of individual radiator covers, a small opening may need to be created, most likely on the side of the radiator cover, to accommodate the capillary tube. To achieve the most effective operation, it is recommended that the control unit be isolated from the exterior temperature and surrounded by interior air. A practical solution is to mount the control unit on a 3/8 inch insulating block (composed of plastic, such as “Starboard”, or on wood). The block need not be much larger than the control itself.

This solution was effectively tested on radiators in two apartments in the complex, a large corner apartment and a smaller interior apartment, each of which suffered from overheating. The experimental installations proved successful, allowing the residents to regulate the flow of heat to the radiators.



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The hardware to implement this solution is available from two suppliers; Honeywell and Danfoss. You will need to engage a certified plumber to install the valves and thermostatic controls; the cost is approximately \$230.00 for parts and \$300.00 for labor for each radiator.

The decision and cost to install this system is solely the responsibility of the Resident/Shareholder. Putnam Hill Apartments, Inc. is not responsible for the installation and does not guarantee in any way the effectiveness of the solution or provide a warranty with respect thereto.

Residents interested in installing these controls should complete a Putnam Hill Remodeling Application available on the PutnamHillct.com website. This installation can only take place during the summer months when the heating system is shut down.