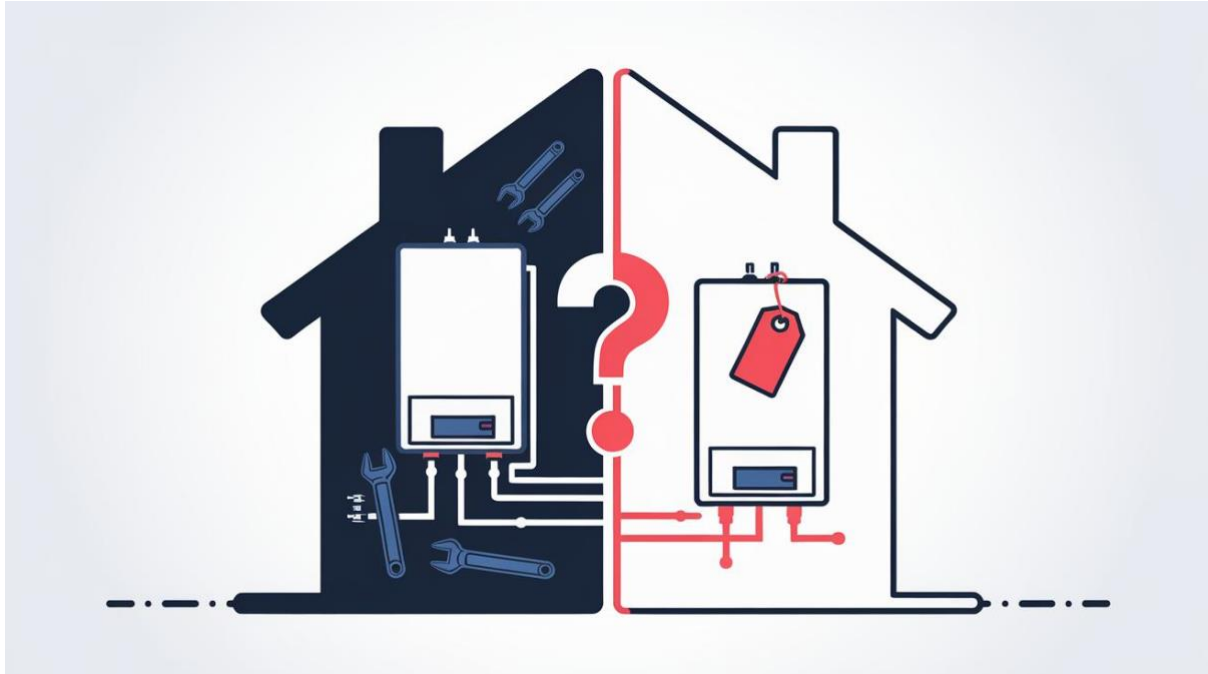




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Should You Repair or Replace Your Boiler? A Simple Guide to Making the Right Choice

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When your boiler suddenly stops working, it's a real headache. Do you fix it and hope it keeps going, or do you splash out on a shiny new one? It's a big decision, and it can feel overwhelming. But don't worry—after 25 years of repairing and replacing boilers, I've got the know-how to help you figure it out. In this straightforward guide, I'll walk you through the key things to think about, so you can make a choice that's right for you and your wallet. Let's get started!

The Golden Rule: Age and Cost

Here's a handy rule to start with: if your boiler is over 10 years old and the repair is going to cost more than £500, it's usually smarter to replace it. Why? Older boilers lose efficiency over time, meaning they cost more to run, and pricey repairs can add up fast. A new boiler might seem expensive upfront, but it could save you money in the long run.

Are There Exceptions? Yes!

Not every boiler follows this rule. Here's when you might bend it a bit:

- **Top-Quality Boilers:** If you've got a boiler from a trusted brand like Vaillant, Viessmann, or Worcester Bosch, it might be worth repairing even if it's a bit older—say, up to 15 years. These boilers are built to last. For example, if your 12-year-old Vaillant has a fault, fixing it could keep it chugging along for another five or six years.
 - **Cheap Repairs:** If the repair costs less than £500, your boiler's been serviced every year, and it's the first time it's gone wrong, a repair is probably fine. No need to replace it just yet!
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Red Flags: When You *Need* a New Boiler

Sometimes, a repair just isn't worth it. Here are the big warning signs that scream "replace me!":

1. Leaking or Split Main Heat Exchanger

This is the heart of your boiler, and if it's leaking or split, you're in trouble. Replacing it costs around £1,000—including parts and labour. That's halfway to a new boiler already, so put that cash towards a replacement instead.

2. Low-Quality Boiler

If your boiler's from a cheaper brand like Biasi, Ferroli, Vokera, Saunier Duval, Ravenheat, or older Keston models, repairs often aren't worth it—even if it's under 10 years old. Parts for these boilers are pricey, and once one thing breaks, others tend to follow like dominoes. Save yourself the hassle and upgrade.

3. Never Serviced

Got a boiler that's five years or older and never been serviced? If it breaks down now, repairs could get expensive—especially if it's a low-quality model. A professional can advise you, but a new boiler might actually be cheaper over time.

4. Water Damage

If your boiler's been leaking inside for ages, water can rust the casing and wreck other parts. At that point, patching it up is like putting a plaster on a broken leg—time for a new one.

5. Heat or Fumes Damage

A faulty burner seal can overheat your boiler, frying other components. Escaping acidic fumes can also rot the casing. Repairs here are rarely worth the cost, so replacement is usually the best bet.

When Should You Repair Your Boiler?

Not every breakdown means a new boiler. Here's when fixing it makes sense:

Small, Simple Fixes

If a minor part fails—like spark electrodes, flame sensors, HT leads, thermistors, thermostats, water pressure sensors, flow sensors, or the pressure relief valve—a repair is often quick and cheap. If your boiler's decent quality and well looked after, this is an easy win.

Medium Fixes on a Good Boiler

Got a top-notch boiler that's under 10 years old and regularly serviced? You might repair bigger parts like the pump, fan, circuit board (PCB), diverter valve, expansion vessel, or plate-to-plate heat exchanger. (Note: this isn't the same as the main heat exchanger!) But if *several* of these fail at once, a new boiler might be smarter.

Double-Check the Advice

Some heating engineers—let's be honest—might exaggerate problems or inflate repair costs to push you into buying a new boiler they'll profit from. If their advice doesn't match what I've outlined here, get a second opinion. It's your money—make sure you're spending it wisely!

Why Go for a New Boiler?

Thinking about replacing? Here's the big perk: warranties. Top brands like Vaillant and Worcester Bosch offer up to 10 years of coverage. That means if anything goes wrong after installation, you're usually sorted—no extra cost. Plus, new boilers are more efficient, so your energy bills could drop.

Watch Out for Warranty Traps

Warranties are great, but they come with rules. Here's how to avoid getting caught out:

- **Service Every Year:** Most warranties demand an annual service. Keep proof—like a signed logbook or a certificate from your engineer.
- **Proper Installation:** When fitting your new boiler, make sure the system's flushed, a filter's added, chemical inhibitor's used, and a water test is done (with results sent to you). Sludge in the system is a common excuse manufacturers use to dodge warranty claims.
- **Keep It Accessible:** Don't let anyone box in your boiler—check the manual for clearance rules. In lofts, there are extra requirements (find out more at registeredgasengineer.co.uk/technical/boilers-in-loft-spaces/). Break these rules, and engineers might refuse to fix it under warranty.

Stick to these, and most manufacturers will honour their promises.

Making Your Decision

So, how do you choose? Ask yourself:

- How old is my boiler?
- How much will the repair cost?
- Is it a good-quality brand?
- Has it been looked after?
- What's broken?

If it's old, costly to fix, poorly made, or badly damaged, lean towards replacement. If it's newer, well-maintained, and the fix is small, a repair could do the trick. Still unsure? A trusted engineer's opinion can seal the deal.

Need Help in Kent?

If you're in the DA, BR, or TN postcode areas of Kent and want me to take a look, I'd love to help. With 25 years of experience, I can repair or replace your boiler with no fuss. Check my [prices here](#), book [online here](#), or [contact me here](#). Let's get your heating sorted!

Final Thoughts

Whether you repair or replace your boiler, the key is knowing what's best for your home and budget. A quick fix might keep you warm for now, but a new boiler could save you stress later. Use this guide, trust your gut, and don't be afraid to ask questions. Here's to a cosy home—whatever you decide!