

Powerflushing Gravity Fed Systems

Question: If the system has a gravity hot water circuit, won't that reduce the flow rate of water through the radiators when carrying out the individual radiator flush?

Answer: If you use the circulator pump adaptor leads to connect across the circulator pump connections, or connect onto radiator tails, you shouldn't lose much of the flow, if any, through the large diameter pipe work of the gravity hot water circuit.

However, this will not clean the gravity hot water pipe work. Some engineers will re-locate the Proflush pump and connect it across the cold feed and expansion piping to force water through the gravity hot water circuit.

If there is one radiator on the gravity hot water circuit or a towel rail, as is sometimes the case, you may be able to connect your Proflush across the radiator tails.

In an ideal world, you would disconnect the gravity hot water pipe work at the boiler, and then Powerflush the hot water circuit separately – but this is far from easy in a back boiler fired gravity hot water system.

Question: Will power flushing cause damage to a heating system?

Answer: It is rare for a heating system to experience leaks after the power flushing process. However, experienced heating engineers will probably explain the following to householders:-

Sludge and debris are present as a result of corrosion over a long period of time.

The power flushing process will cure most circulation problems, but cannot undo the corrosion and gradual decay of heating system components that has led to the need to power flush the system.

Occasionally some systems may have radiators with localised deep corrosion pits, with only a scab of rust preventing the system water from leaking out. The vigorous flow rate required to mobilise sludge and deposits may dislodge such a scab, leading to a leak from the radiator during the flushing process.

The advanced stage of corrosion required for such a situation means that the leak would occur imminently even without a power flush. If it should be brought forward slightly by the flushing process, then it is better that it occurs whilst a heating engineer is present to remedy the problem, rather than for it to arise over a weekend or whilst the house is unoccupied.

Norstrom Prochem power flushing chemicals are comprehensively inhibited, so that they do not affect the metals from which heating systems are constructed.

They are formulated so that they loosen and dissolve the corrosion products that cause boiler noise and circulation problems, enabling the power flushing process to power them out of the heating system.

It is important after the flushing process to add a good quality inhibitor, such as Norstrom Prochem Inhibitor, to the heating system to prevent future decay.