

Building Heating/Cooling: Information Sheet



How is the building heated and cooled?

- For cooling in the summer, the building has a central chiller on the roof. The chilled water is circulated through the building and to the fan coil in your unit. When your thermostat clicks on, a valve opens and allows the cooled water to flow through your fan coil. The fan blows cooled air into your unit.
- For heating in the winter, the building has central boilers on the roof. The heating system works the same way as the cooling system, except that it is heated water that is circulated through the building.
- The way the building is designed, only one of these systems can be run at a time. So once we switch over to heat in the fall, there is no going back. And the same is true when we switch over to cooling in the spring.

When does the heat get turned on in the fall?

- Usually it is around the second week of October, but this can change depending on the weather. Because of certain design characteristics our building is very hot – it holds heat much longer than most other buildings. Because of this we have to be very careful about when we switch off the chiller and start up the heaters. If we do it too soon and then get some warmer weather, many residents find it far too hot in their unit, and the common areas such as hallways and lobby also get very warm. We monitor the weather forecasts carefully during these periods, and communicate regularly with Honeywell, our building's systems manager.
- The decision to change from cooling to heating (or vice versa) is based on the general temperature in the building, and forecasted temperatures. We try to make sure that the building can maintain the generally accepted room temperature of 22-24°C (72-75°F). However if an outdoor temperature spike or drop occurs after we've made the switch, it is possible that we will be unable to maintain this range. Also, there will always be residents who find this temperature range either too hot or too cool, however we must use this range since it is suitable for the majority.

What can I do if the heating/cooling isn't on yet, but I find it too hot/cold in my unit?

- In rare cases, a resident may have a comfort level which falls outside the average range described above
- They can compensate by opening windows or using auxiliary heaters during this short period before the heating/cooling is turned on.