

Typical Campus Large Dorm Heater System Operation

Building Equipment-

Heating equipment varies from building to building. If your building is included in the list on the Facilities [HVAC Instructions page](#), read that document. Otherwise, this tutorial will serve as a good starting point to understand how the heating in your dorm room functions.

Heating control-

Outdoor temperatures determine when a building's heating pumps turn on. When outdoor temperatures are less than 55 degrees, the heat will be enabled. If outdoor temps stay below 65 for a day or so, the heat will also be enabled until they rise above 65 degrees, at which point the heat shuts off. The heating system's water temperature is "reset" based on outdoor air temperatures. The colder it is outside, the hotter the circulating hot water will be. This is an energy savings strategy that is quite common.

Occupant comfort control-

Room heaters have a thermostatic control that regulates the amount of hot water flowing through each heater. These controllers sense the room temperature and allow the correct water flow to achieve the desired temperature set point which is indicated on the dial of each unit. These dials are sensitive, and their control range is between 50 and 79 degrees. A small turn of the knob can mean a big temperature change, so be cautious and make small adjustments.

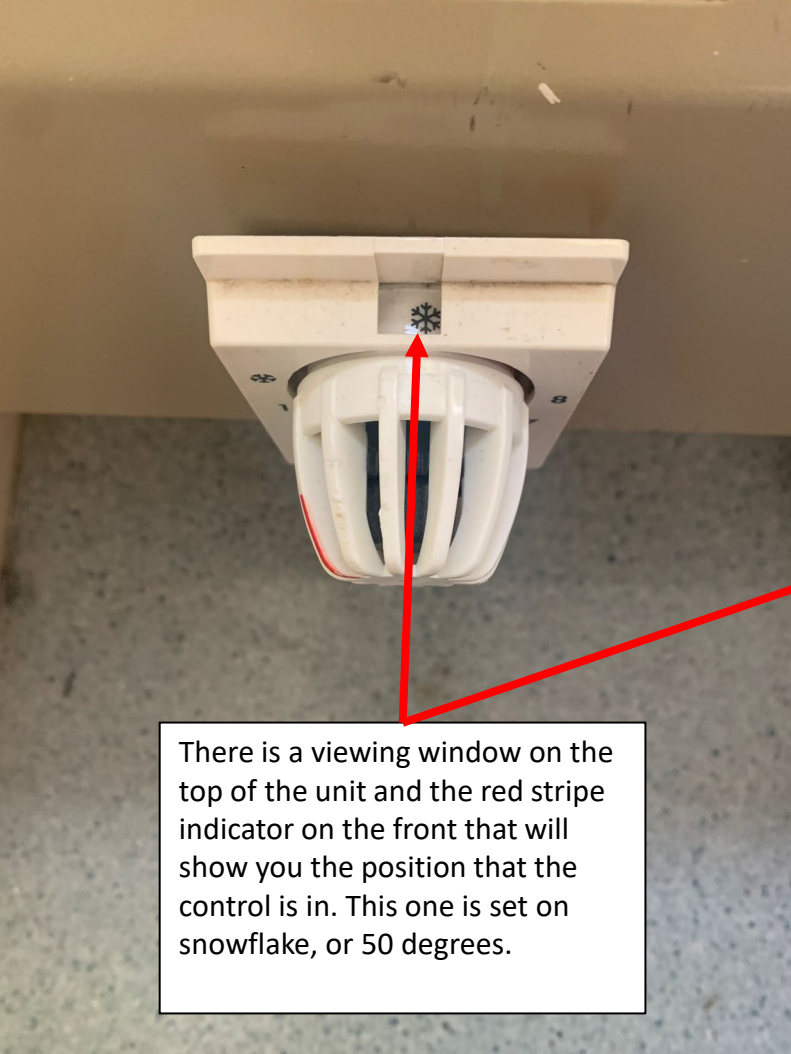
The following pages explain how to use these controls and what you can do to make your space as comfortable as possible.

If you've followed the instructions in this document, and your room is still too hot or cold, please work with your RA to submit a maintenance/service request to Facilities so someone can repair. Please DO NOT open your window as a "fix" to a broken heater control.

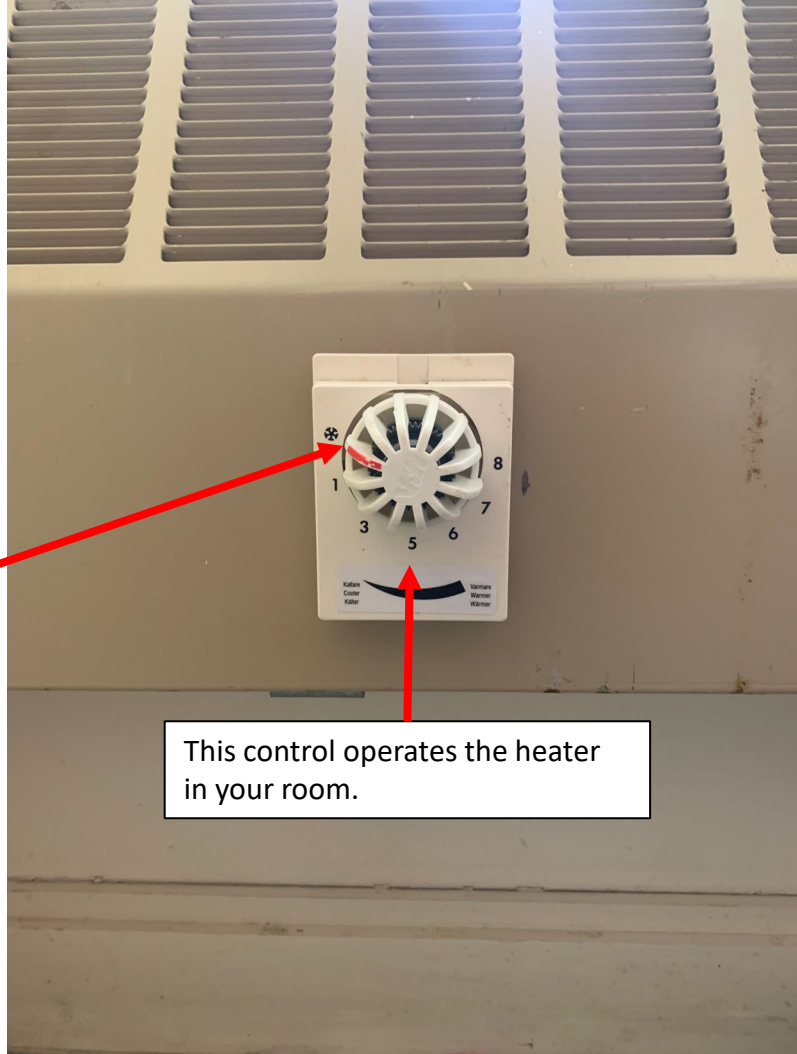
You can also watch this 3-minute and 50-second [Student video on heating](#) where fellow students show you how to use your heater control.



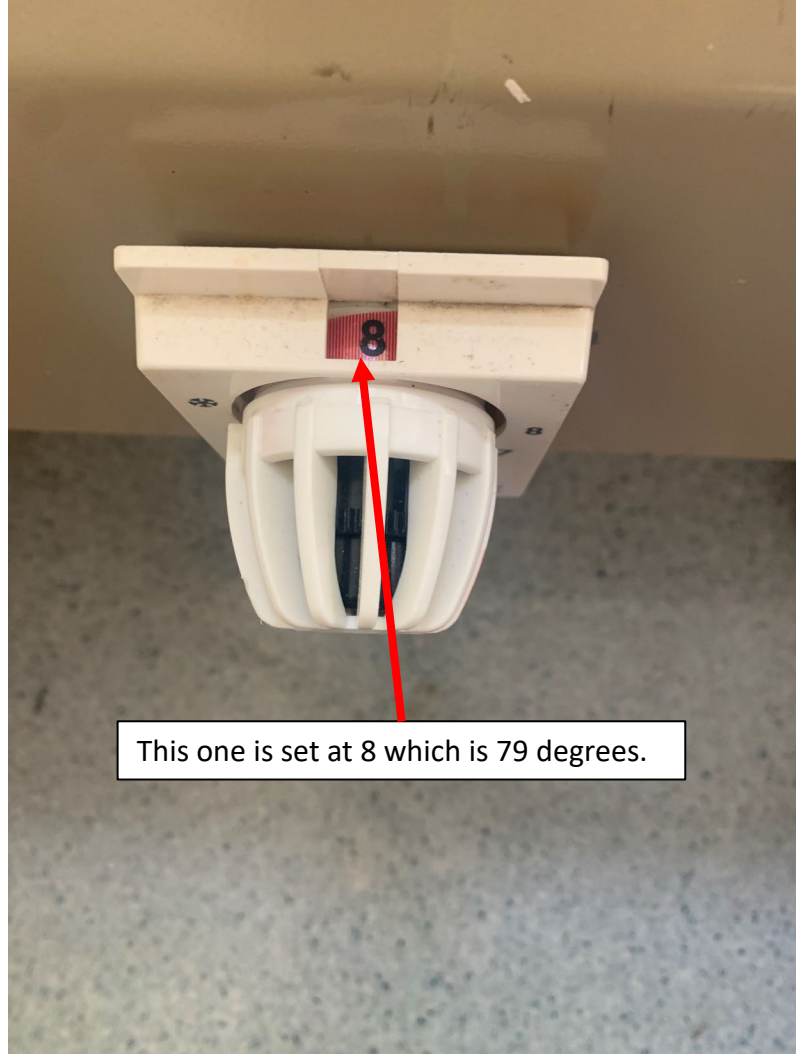
Locate your thermostat controller. In many dorm rooms, it is mounted directly on the heater cabinet face or on the piping attached to the heater. It could be hidden behind the bed or furniture. Please become familiar with its location as you may need to adjust during cold weather.



There is a viewing window on the top of the unit and the red stripe indicator on the front that will show you the position that the control is in. This one is set on snowflake, or 50 degrees.



This control operates the heater in your room.

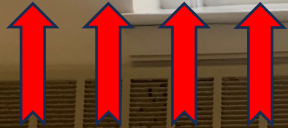


This one is set at 8 which is 79 degrees.

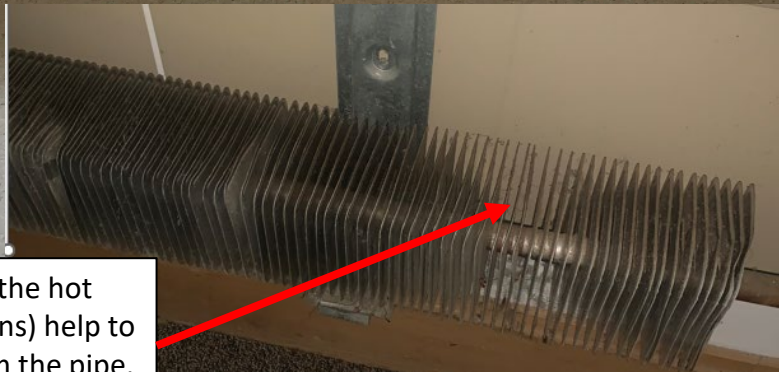
DIAL SETTINGS						
*	1	3	5	6	7	8
50	54	61	68	72	75	79
Frost Protection						

A typical room heater. This heater convects heat as hot water circulates through it. Placing anything that will hamper the direct flow of air through the bottom or top of this unit will greatly reduce the amount of heat thrown out from the unit.

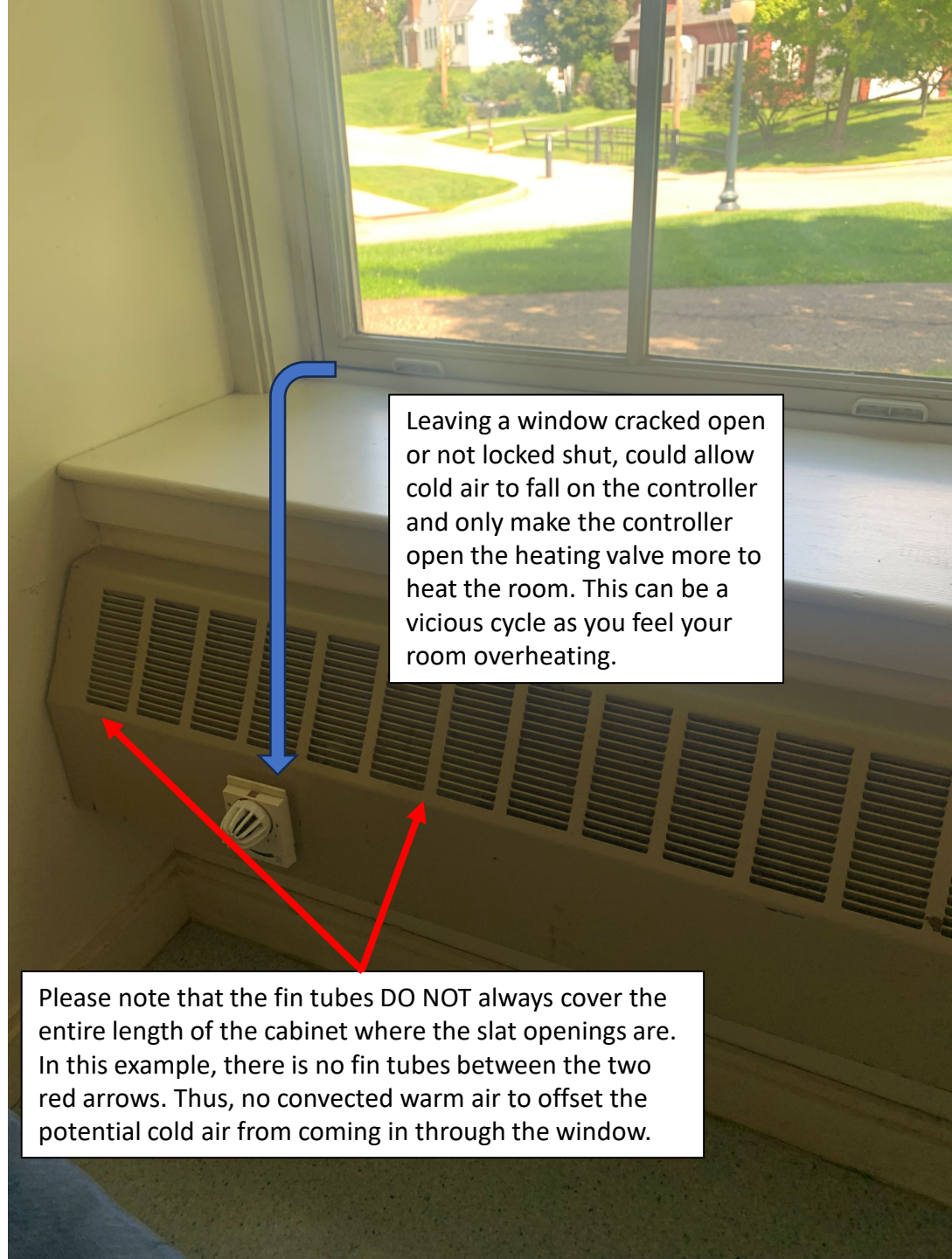
Warmer air flows up through the open slats on the cover.



Cooler air flows up behind the panel, across the warm fins.



Thin metal plates on the hot water tubes (called fins) help to remove the heat from the pipe.



Leaving a window cracked open or not locked shut, could allow cold air to fall on the controller and only make the controller open the heating valve more to heat the room. This can be a vicious cycle as you feel your room overheating.

Please note that the fin tubes DO NOT always cover the entire length of the cabinet where the slat openings are. In this example, there is no fin tubes between the two red arrows. Thus, no convected warm air to offset the potential cold air from coming in through the window.



This desk is hampering a small amount of the airflow because it is tight to the heater. If this is the only blockage for this room, most likely not an issue.



The area below this bed is clear and allows the proper flow of air through the heater. Please do not clutter the area below the bed with boxes or storage bins which can block the airflow.



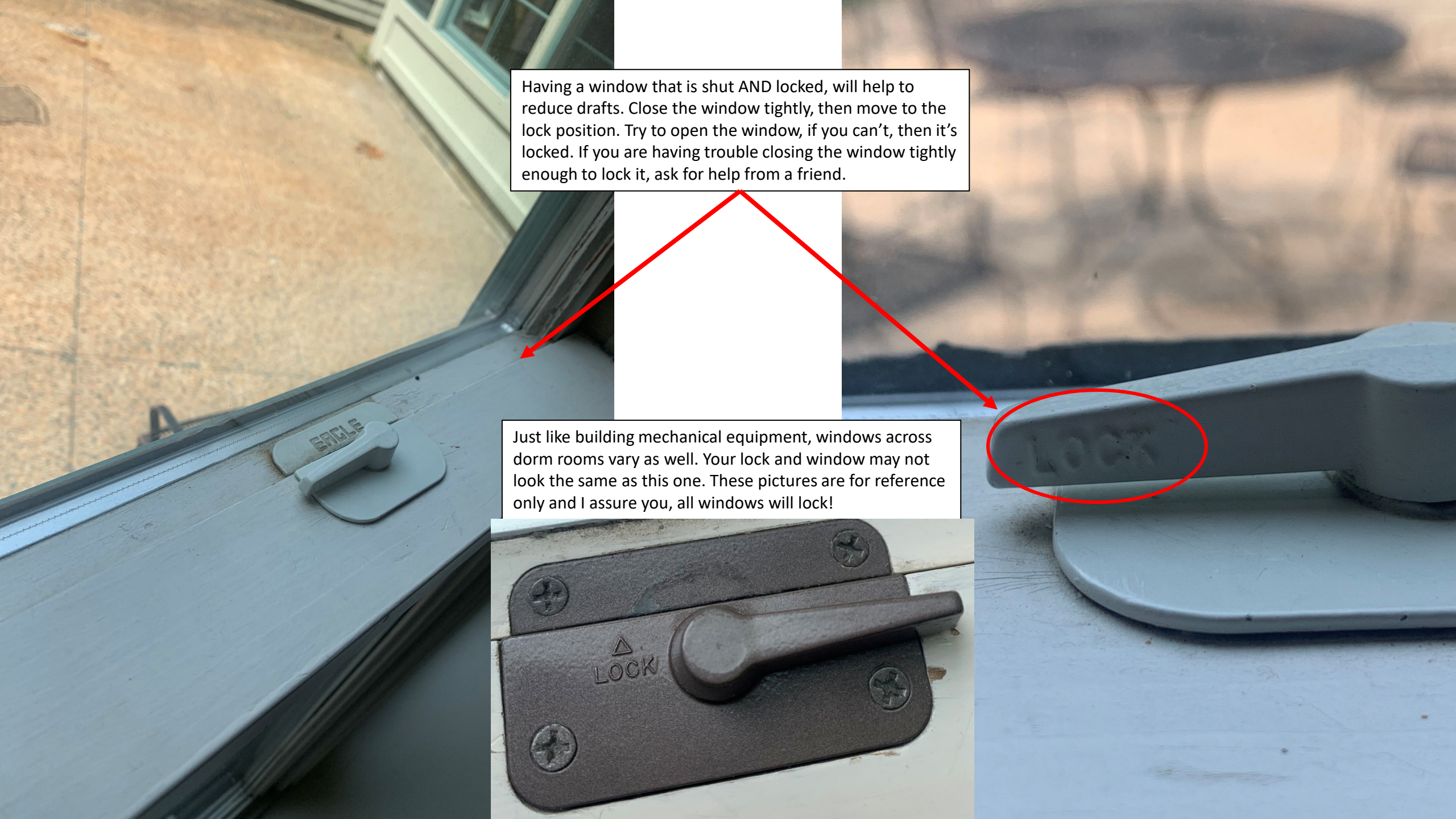
The bed appears to be touching the heater, and a bedspread can be covering up the open slats on the heater face. Pulling the bed away from the heater a few inches to keep the slats free for air movement is advised.

Windows left unlocked will not seal properly and will allow a draft to enter. Even windows that appear closed, if not locked, will have a noticeable draft during periods of cold weather.



Having a window that is shut AND locked, will help to reduce drafts. Close the window tightly, then move to the lock position. Try to open the window, if you can't, then it's locked. If you are having trouble closing the window tightly enough to lock it, ask for help from a friend.

Just like building mechanical equipment, windows across dorm rooms vary as well. Your lock and window may not look the same as this one. These pictures are for reference only and I assure you, all windows will lock!

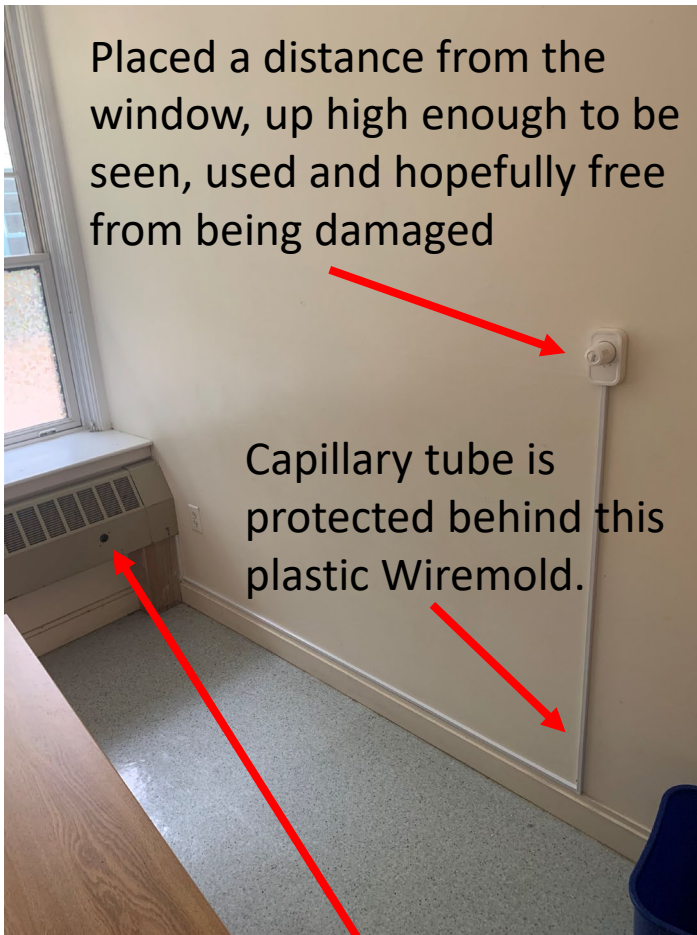


While they look different, these controllers have the same settings and work the same as the room heater control. You may see these mostly in bathrooms or common spaces, but also in dorm rooms.

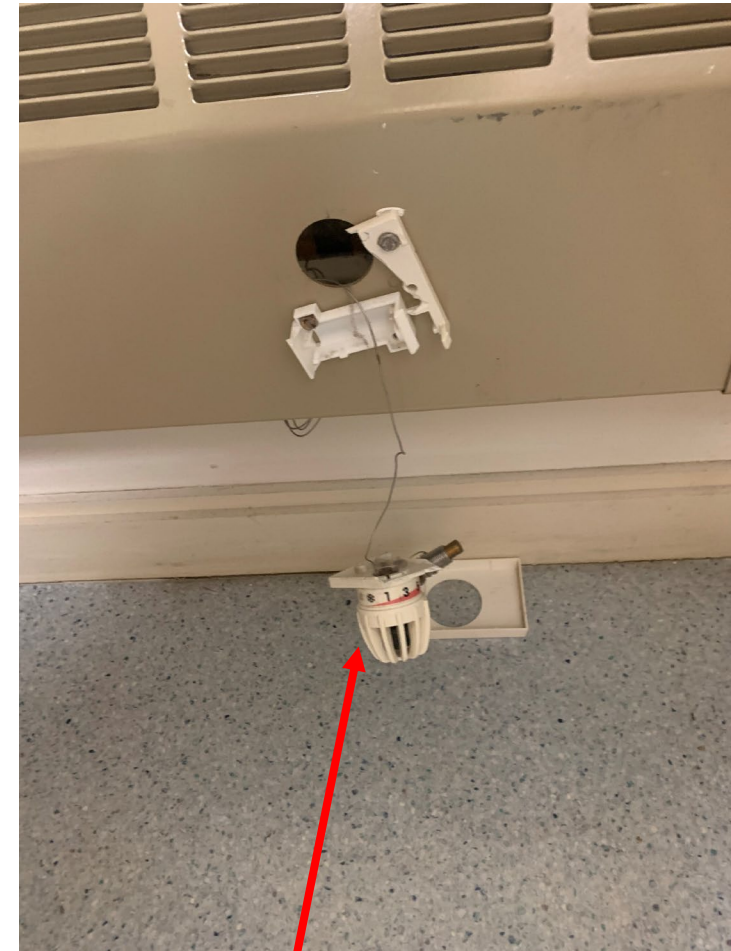


A pilot project in Brackett and Palmer.

Along with trying to save energy by giving users more convenient access to adjust their temperature control, moving these controllers can help with damage that can create heating issues for rooms.



Very easy for a bed to damage the controller.



Destroyed controller most likely from furniture being moved. This can lead to room overheating or room underheating.



This control operates the heater in your room. The QR sticker can be used to quickly navigate to Facilities page on heating/cooling for buildings on campus.

The small triangle indicator will show you the position that the control is in. This one is set on snowflake, or 50 degrees.

This control is set for the maximum room temperature setting of 72 degrees.

This room is set for a room temperature of 68 degrees.

DIAL SETTINGS				
*	1	3	5	6
50	54	61	68	72
Frost Protection				