

# FIND YOUR BALANCE

A new range of thermal balancing valves (TBVs) has been launched by Albion Valves UK, to help safeguard against water-borne diseases such as Legionnaires' disease, which can be problematic in public buildings.

Hundreds of cases of Legionnaires' disease are reported every year in the UK, according to Public Health England, with many more cases going undiagnosed and unreported. Symptoms are flu-like to most of the population, but can be more severe in vulnerable groups such as the very young or elderly.

Legionnaires' disease can

occur when water is allowed to cool in pipework at temperatures of between 20°C and 45°C, allowing bacteria to flourish, especially where dirt, scale, or biofilms are present.

TBVs are designed for use in hot water systems, accelerating water delivery to the tap, to reduce water wastage and conserve energy. However, they are also being specified increasingly in public buildings, to help prevent the growth of legionella bacteria.

The TBV provides thermal balance in hot water systems, to keep a constant water

temperature generally above 50°C. This provides thermal disinfection against Legionnaires' disease, while limiting the flow in pipes to a minimum required level.

Les Littlewood, Sales Director at Albion Valves UK, said: "Showers, baths, pools, and hot tubs are the main breeding grounds for the bacteria, which can cause severe illness. So, it is imperative that TBVs are used in hot water systems, to ensure the temperature is never allowed to dip to ambient. Taking this one simple measure can prevent almost all of the risk."



"Hospitals, care homes, and other health care providers are particularly vulnerable to outbreaks, and should ensure their hot water systems are appropriately safeguarded against the risk."

[www.albionvalvesuk.com](http://www.albionvalvesuk.com)



# RAISING STANDARDS

The Altecnic Intaball range of gas lever ball valves has been certified to EN 331:2015 (Class C) standard.

Altecnic's Intaball ball valves for gas are lever-operated through 90°, with bi-directional flow, and incorporate a hard chrome-plated ball for improved wear resistance. Featuring PTFE body seats for reliable isolation, the valves are designed for applications characterised by high flow rates, with minimum pressure drops.

Altecnic has worked closely with BSI's Loughborough-based product certification team and Centre of Excellence for the past two and a half years. Following an assessment, Altecnic can now demonstrate compliance with European directives and regulations relating to the ball valves and OEM equipment it manufactures and supplies across

UK domestic and commercial markets.

Gary Perry, Managing Director at Altecnic, said: "We are proud to have worked with the team at BSI to achieve one of the first UK certifications to this important new standard."

"It means our customers can be confident that Altecnic products meet, and in many cases exceed, industry standards throughout their lifecycle, irrespective of technological advances and a changing commercial landscape."

BSI has been granted Gas Appliance Regulations (GAR) certification CE 698408. Based on European Standard EN 331:2015, it is the benchmark by which compliance is judged for products that can be incorporated into gas appliances.

[www.altecnic.co.uk](http://www.altecnic.co.uk)

# ALEXA TAKES CONTROL

Danfoss has launched a free skill for Amazon's voice assistant, Alexa. The skill is enabled via the app for the Danfoss Link central controller or Danfoss TPOne-S programmable room thermostat.

Once a pairing code provided by the app has been entered into the Alexa system, homeowners can use voice commands to control the temperature in their house for optimum energy efficiency and comfort.

Gareth Ash, Danfoss' Marketing and Technical Support Manager, said: "Being able to use simple voice commands to control the temperature of your home takes Danfoss smart home heating solutions to new levels of ease and convenience – and will also help consumers keep their homes comfortably and affordably warm."

Users can ask Alexa questions such as 'what is the current temperature in my bedroom?', or use an Alexa-enabled command to increase or decrease the temperature in the living room.

"As well as the user benefits, the ability to connect the latest Danfoss heating controls with this popular voice-recognition technology will be a great selling point for installers," added Gareth.

The Danfoss Link central controller provides wireless control of the heating system by linking all the elements of a home's heating controls, including room sensors and Danfoss' electronic TRVs.

The system is designed to be easy to program using the central controller or the Danfoss Link app to personalise heating schedules.

[www.heating.danfoss.co.uk](http://www.heating.danfoss.co.uk)



# CLASSIC CAST-IRON HEAT

The Radiator Company has added the Aston designer radiator to its range. A classic column radiator featuring footed end sections, the Aston is available in a vast range of finishes.

Sectional designer radiators are popular, as their flexibility provides homeowners with a fully customisable option that can be fitted into any room layout and size. An evolution of the Bianco range, the Aston is available in four heights, up to 40 sections,

and with three or four columns.

Designed and engineered in the UK, the Aston can be purchased in any one of the 132 colours from Farrow & Ball's range, as well as in a choice of 25 RAL colours. There is also a polished option available.

The Aston's cast iron finish is suitable for any period restoration, and in living rooms, bedrooms, kitchens, hallways, and dining rooms. By emitting a more constant heat, the Aston is also an

option for older properties with poor insulation.

Unlike the previous Bianco range, the Aston comes supplied with footed end sections as standard, or options for cast feet and wall brackets on request, making installation of the heavy cast iron radiators easier.

The Aston is available in 15 working days for all finishes except polished, which is available in five weeks.

[www.theradiatorcompany.co.uk](http://www.theradiatorcompany.co.uk)



# SUSTAINABLE SOFTENING

Monarch Water has introduced high-efficiency water softeners with Opti-Brining technology, which means the units only regenerate when needed, using less water, salt, and energy than previous generations.

Opti-Brining offers greater exchange capacity, higher flow rates, and reduced water consumption during regeneration when compared to existing models.

The HE range also features Monarch Water's Rapid-Fit bypass, designed to make the installation

process easier. Installers connect the water in and out from the mains supply, then fit the hoses to the softener for easy installation.

[www.monarchwater.co.uk](http://www.monarchwater.co.uk)



Energy saving company Vestemi has launched its first product – the Radbot smart radiator thermostat.

Radbot uses artificial intelligence to enable householders to heat individual rooms only when needed, while reducing the temperature in empty rooms. This, the company says, will save users both energy and money, with recent customer trials demonstrating savings of 31% on an average heating bill.

Using artificial intelligence, Radbot monitors light and human activity by tracking how often householders use their rooms in order to establish their patterns of movement. This allows the Radbot to understand when it needs to heat a radiator, ensuring

the room is ready and warm for occupants.

The thermostat is easy to install and operates the same as a standard, manual thermostat. It does not require internet connectivity, complex programming, or a smartphone app.

The product is designed to be highly intuitive, meaning that, if a person uses a room outside of their usual routine, Radbot will understand that it needs to heat the radiator there and then. There is also a boost button that gives householders an extra 30 minutes of heating.

Jeremy Lock, Chief Executive of Vestemi, said: "Energy is a luxury we simply cannot afford to waste. That's why we've brought Radbot to market. You wouldn't leave the lights on in a room you weren't using, so why the heating? It's a simple concept that has already delivered substantial savings during customer trials. Crucially, the design reflects our understanding that consumers want simple solutions they can fit and forget. This is the future of the smart home – the simple, smart home."

Radbot is on sale direct from the Radbot store, or from the EDF Energy website.

[www.vestemi.com](http://www.vestemi.com)



# BE WINTER READY

Snickers Workwear has added stretch work trousers and jackets to its workwear range.

The comfort fabrics in Snickers' work trousers deliver enhanced freedom of movement, and improved comfort, says the company.

The new clothes are complemented by Snickers' range of AllroundWork and FlexiWork jackets, which are designed to deliver warmth, dryness, and visibility when it is needed most.

[www.snickersworkwear.co.uk](http://www.snickersworkwear.co.uk)

