



**THIS PICTURE** Cast-iron column radiators are available as reclaimed, reconditioned models or faithful reproductions  
**BELOW** Tall, slim modern column radiators are ideal for tricky spaces

## RADIATORS

A central-heating system need not be quite as dull as it sounds. Practical and purposeful, it involves a single boiler that heats up water and circulates this through pipes to radiators in each room. But it can look good, too, particularly with the modern trend for industrial-inspired interiors, which means that old-style, solid cast-iron radiators are now very fashionable. Source original and reconditioned ones from reclamation yards, or modern-day reproductions from architectural-fittings merchants and enjoy the variety of decorative styles, colours and metallic finishes now available. Their chunky design will provide plenty of architectural integrity and utilitarian grandeur in any rural-style interior, while their column construction of individual sections welded together allows for custom-made sizes to fit tiny rooms or awkward spaces.

- Opt for A-rated boilers to accompany heating systems in order to achieve more than 90 per cent energy efficiency.
- Calculate a room's BTU (British thermal unit) to work out how much radiator capacity you will need to heat it – you can do this online at [bestheating.com/btu-calculator](#).
- For optimum heat efficiency, fit thermostatically controlled valves – look out for decorative wheel-head styles in traditional brass, nickel or copper.
- One of the easiest ways to improve the efficiency of your heating system and reduce winter fuel bills is to bleed the radiators. ➔

