

# STEAM SYSTEM TROUBLESHOOTING CHART

Problem	Possible Cause	Solution
System won't run	1. Problems in boiler/furnace assembly.	1. See sections on specific furnaces.
Not enough heat (entire system)	1. Thermostat set too low.	1. Raise thermostat five degrees.
	2. Boiler water level low.	2. Check boiler; if necessary, let boiler cool and refill half full.
	3. Problems in boiler/furnace assembly.	3. See sections on specific furnaces.
	4. Rust or scale in boiler and/or pipes.	4. Flush boiler system; add antiscaling preparation. If problem persists, call a professional.
	5. Problem in boiler.	5. Call a professional.
Not enough heat (individual radiator)	1. Radiator or pipes not sloping properly.	1. Check slope; prop radiator or adjust supply pipes to slope toward boiler.
	2. Inlet valve closed or partially open.	2. Open inlet valve completely.
	3. Air trapped in radiator.	3. Clear or replace air vent.
	4. Radiator blocked.	4. Make sure radiators are not blocked by rugs, drapes, or furniture.
Uneven heat	1. Air vents not sized or adjusted properly.	1. Adjust air vents so that those far away from boiler are open more than those close to the boiler.
Leaks	1. Loose pipe connection.	1. Tighten pipe connection.
	2. Worn stem packing or washer on inlet valve.	2. Replace stem packing or washer on inlet valve.
Water level gauge unreadable	1. Rust or scale in system.	1. Flush boiler system; add antiscaling preparation. If problem persists, call a professional.
Pipes or radiators noisy	1. Water trapped in system.	1. Check slope; prop radiators or adjust supply pipes to slope toward the boiler.