

# Case Study

## Edgecombe Hill, Wandsworth



Smith's Hydroflame heats up homes for Wandsworth Council.



### The Client

Forming part of Wandsworth Council's estate of council houses, Edgecombe Hill is undergoing significant refurbishment and updating of the heating systems as part of the council's heating replacement project. The project is managed by Dave Richardson at Wandsworth Council and the main contractors are Westminster Building Services Ltd.

### The Challenge

The estate is a portfolio of houses with old back boilers which require updating with modern efficient new boilers and heating systems for their tenants.

Dave Richardson says, "When we remove the old back boiler and its fire front, it leaves a hole in the wall. For many tenants, they've enjoyed a fire being the focal point of their living room and they would like it replaced by something of similar aesthetic appeal and quality"

### The Solution

To satisfy the challenge of hiding the void and open fire front when the back boiler is removed the Smith's Hydroflame® provides an elegant solution by filling the hole left in the fire front. As Dave Richardson notes "the Smith's Hydroflame enables us to provide a suitable replacement for the tenant without disturbing the living space any further. It ticks all the boxes, it looks nice and it works well."

Site manager Wayne Cheeseman, from Westminster Building Services, says, "The Hydroflames® are good fires and they're nice and easy to fit. They plumb straight into the central heating system that's already there so it's all very straight forward. The surrounds they come with look nice and they are so easy and simple to install as well."

### The Products

From a technical perspective, the Hydroflame® works by drawing in cool air and heat is produced from the hot water circulating in the within the central heating system itself. A major benefit of this system is that is no

need for a flue as no flue gases produced. There is also no need for any special ventilation and operates as an integral part of the 'whole house' central heating or to provide an extra boost of heat on cold days. It also functions as a single heat source when the entire central heating doesn't need to be switched on.

Like all Smith's fan convectors, the Hydroflame® comes with its own free five-year parts and labour guarantee and Dave Richardson notes that Smith's also provided his contractor with a set of spare parts so that if there are any minor technical hitches, they are easily resolved there and then. "There's not a great deal to go wrong with them and the whole kit of spares Smith's supplies means that if there are any issues, they can be alleviated very easily," he says.

Smith's Sales and Marketing Director, Jim Bennett, adds, "We continue to shout the benefits of the Hydroflame® with our public-sector clients and the projects with Wandsworth Council demonstrate what a straight forward and easy to install product it really is. It's already pre-wired and because it connects to the central heating system, it does not require its own independent gas supply. It can be used in any type of property and no minimum room size applies. The Hydroflame® can be installed anywhere, does not require a specific CO detector as no CO is produced, and it is cost-effective both in terms of initial outlay and also annual maintenance."

Operationally, the Hydroflame® couldn't be easier. Featuring easy action rocker switches which are clearly labelled, they are simple to use by all residents, including the elderly or disabled. Equally useful is that although the Hydroflame® still looks like any other focal point fire, with a cosy flame-effect glow, it has no live flames or hot coals. As a low surface temperature heat emitter, this can prove advantageous in homes with young children or older people and consequently should be considered in other domestic settings, such as care homes and nurseries.

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Dave Richardson | Project Manager | Wandsworth Council