

MERIT HEATING/COOLING

GENERAL OVERVIEW

In Merit, heating/cooling works differently than in residential homes where a thermostat can switch to heating or cooling at any time. In Merit, the whole building must be switched from heating to cooling and vice-versa. Heat is provided via hot water and cooling via chilled water through convector units. During heating season, the air-conditioning does not work to prevent pipes from freezing. During cooling season, both heat and air-conditioning will work. Issues with the temperature of your room? Please submit a maintenance request at: mars.housing.wisc.edu.

GUIDELINES & HELPFUL HINTS

- Try small adjustments first to avoid overheating/cooling your room
- Make sure furniture, bedding, or belongings aren't pushed against convectors as this could block air flow
- During heating season, open curtains and blinds during the day when you are home to allow the sun to warm your room naturally, and close them at night to decrease drafts; during cooling season, do the reverse
- Keep doors and windows closed when the heat or air conditioning is on
- Dress for the season: instead of turning up the heat, use blankets and sweaters

HEATING & COOLING CONTROLS

Your room can be set from 65 – 75 °F and is controlled via a thermostat located on the wall (*see photo*). Pushing the “up” arrow on the left of the thermostat will warm your room, while pushing the “down” arrow will cool your room. Fan speed is controlled via a switch located under a hinged cover on the upper left corner of the convector unit (*see photo*). To increase or decrease fan speed, turn the control switch under the hinged cover on the convector unit to the desired setting.

HUMIDITY TIPS

- When possible, keep your room door open to promote air movement and introduce fresh air
- Take wet clothing or towels to a laundry room to be washed/dried ASAP to reduce moisture
- Run a fan to help circulate air in your room
- When possible, keep your blinds open to prevent air from being trapped against the window
- Consider the items you have in your room: fish tanks, plants, humidifiers, and diffusers can contribute to humidity/moisture levels in your room

