

RIPPLE RELAYS FOR WATER HEATING

Are you building or modifying a home, office or business?

It is mandatory for electric water heaters¹ to be ripple controlled. This means you must allow for the ripple relay and control wiring in your designs for new buildings, and leave existing ripple relays in place when modifying buildings.

Orion's distribution network transports electricity from Transpower's national grid to more than 186,000 homes and businesses in central Canterbury. Ripple control allows us to manage our loading levels to keep our charges down and avoid blackouts if the network is damaged or has problems.

There are ripple control options to suit all situations and you can change options at any time²:

- **peak control** – routinely switched off for a few hours on high loading days (for business customers with greater hot water demands, we have peak control options that are limited to two or four hours)
- **night-only** – heats your water using cheaper electricity at night
- **night with afternoon boost** – combines night heating with a daily boost to provide more hot water
- **nights and weekends** – combines night heating with a weekend boost for those extra weekend showers and chores
- **emergency control** – provides near continuous water heating and is rarely switched off (and only as a last resort).

Many of these options provide significant savings on your power bill but it's important to choose one that provides the hot water you need. Most electricians are familiar with our requirements and these options, and can help you select the one that's best for you and ensure the right wiring is installed.

Questions? Phone Orion's Contact Centre on (03) 363 9898.

¹ This requirement applies to all new residential and business premises with storage electric water heaters of 100 to 500 litres capacity with a heating element of more than 1.2 kW.

² Some electricity retailers do not offer all options and there's usually a service fee for changing ripple relays and/or retail pricing options.

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