



Unhappiness is a three-month holiday

by Andy Blackwell, A1 Perfect Plumbing Ltd

It's been a relaxing few months, too relaxing. In early November, I made the huge mistake of pushing a crate. Yes, it was a big crate, a heavy crate, but it was still just a crate. Alas, my Achilles tendon took umbrage at this show of bravado, and promptly went "pop". Three months later and I am just getting back to work, not able to drive, just about able to hobble, but still unable to give a big crate the thorough kicking it truly deserves.

I'd like to say I managed to turn this enforced break into something truly productive, but I would be lying. I started off with some terrific ideas, but in the end settled for putting my feet up and feeling sorry for myself. One good thing that did come of it was that I had time to examine my new Heat Pump. December and January generated the sort of cold that I needed to really put it to the test, and I have to say it met the challenge. You hear a lot

from people who know nothing about these things, that they can't handle truly cold winters. The fact that the Scandinavians have been running them in -25°C for decades, doesn't seem to stop these rumours, so much so that I did actually have a few doubts myself. Fortunately, it breezed through a series of -5°C evenings with no problems at all. Alas, there's a difference between working and working efficiently. Of course, this also

applies to gas boilers, but an inefficient boiler running at about 9p per kWh, is easier to forgive than an inefficient Heat Pump burning through electricity at 30p per kWh. It's taken me weeks of experimentation and badgering of experts, but I've finally got to a stage where it's now running well enough to start seeing our energy bills coming down, possibly not as fast as I'd at first hoped but, they're definitely coming down.

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AIR SOURCE HEAT PUMP

