HOUNSFIELD BOILERS

Technical update – capacitor upgrade December 2025

We've had capacitors failing, as have others in the industry, we've taken action to resolve the issue.

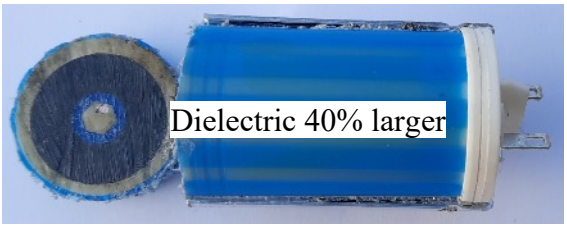
Historically capacitor failure was rare, the photo below is of a 22 year old 4 µF capacitor, it has a microfarad reading of 3.5 µF.

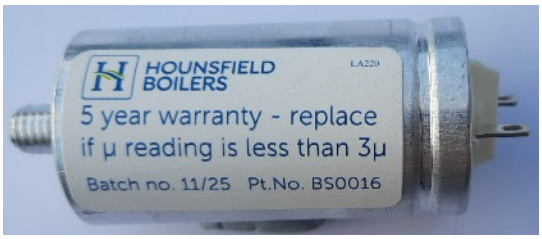
We took a closer look at the construction of the capacitors we've been using, they're filled with castor oil. The main reason for failure is the liquid itself, over time, it evaporates, heat degrades the rubber seal, leading to oil leakage and chemical ageing of the dielectric; once this happens, capacitance drops, there's no longer sufficient starting torque.

Example of a failed oil filled capacitor:

Dielectric constructed of rolled sandwiched layers of foil.

Our new capacitors have no liquid inside. The dielectric being circa 40% larger, provides more storage capacity and better heat dissipation, the assembly is encased in vulcanised resin.





Inevitably they cost more, a small price to pay when it comes to saving hassle for our customers!

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