

Helping to keep you
warm



Getting a good deal

With energy bills continuing to rise, it's important to make sure that you know how to save as much money as you can on your energy bills.

Switch to direct debit and paperless billing

Many energy suppliers offer discounts to customers who pay by direct debit or receive their bills by email. Instead of receiving bills in the post, you'll get emails and can manage your account and give meter readings on-line. Speak to your energy supplier to see if they provide such discounts.

Take regular meter readings

If your gas and electricity bills are based on estimated readings you could end up paying for much more gas or electricity than you actually use. Take meter readings and give them to your supplier regularly.

Compare suppliers

Energy suppliers are all competing with each other, so switching suppliers can be a great way to cut your energy bills. According to Ofgem, customers who switch both gas and electricity suppliers could save up to £100 per year. There are a number of comparison sites on the internet where you can find the best deals. It may also pay to look into dual fuel deals, where you get your gas and electricity from the same supplier. These often offer discounts and can work out cheaper.

Check for draughts

Unless your home is very new, you're likely to be losing some heat through draughts around doors and windows, gaps around the floor and lots of other little holes around the house. Take the time to seal these gaps, and you could save some serious money on your energy bills.

Tips for saving energy

- Turn your thermostat down – reducing your room temperature by 1°C could cut your heating bills by up to 10% and typically saves around £75 per year. If you have a programmer, set your heating and hot water to come on only when you need them, rather than all the time.
- Is your water too hot? Your cylinder thermostat should be set at 60°C/140°F.
- Close your curtains at dusk to stop heat escaping through the windows and check for draughts around windows and doors.
- Always turn off the lights when you leave a room.
- If possible, fill up the washing machine, tumble drier or dishwasher – one full load uses less energy than two half loads.
- Only boil as much water as you need (but remember to cover the element if you're using an electric kettle).
- A dripping hot-water tap wastes energy and in one week wastes enough hot water to fill half a bath, so fix leaking taps and make sure they're turned off!
- Use energy-saving light bulbs. They last up to 10 times longer than ordinary bulbs, and using one can save you around £45 over the lifetime of the bulb.

More Information

The Energy Saving Trust, funded by the Scottish Government, provide expert knowledge and advice about energy saving. Call them for free impartial advice on 0808 080 2282.

Questions

We're happy to help if you're unsure about what to do. Just call our Freephone number **03030 300 999**



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