



Hyde



Saving energy
in your home

Energy costs

Energy prices are at an all-time high. Several factors are contributing to the rise in the cost of living, and most people across the UK are worried about how they're going to afford an increase to their bills. It's important to know, that there is help out there. There are also many simple practical ways you can reduce energy use in your home, and lower your bills.



A good way to start, is to take regular meter readings, especially when requested by your supplier, to make sure you're being charged the correct amount. If an energy supplier doesn't receive a meter reading, they'll estimate your usage, which may lead to a higher or lower bill. If you're not sure how to read your meter, Citizens Advice can help. Call them on **0800 144 8848** or visit www.citizensadvice.org.uk/consumer/energy

Practical energy saving tips

**average savings per year
source: Energy Saving Trust*



Always turn off the lights when you leave a room. This can also help your bulbs last longer



If you can afford to, use energy-saving lightbulbs. They last up to 10 times longer than ordinary bulbs and using one can save you around £55 over the lifetime of the bulb



Washing your clothes at a lower temperature uses less electricity. Washing at 30°C rather than 40°C could save you a third of the cost



Turn your thermostat down. Reducing your room temperature by 1°C could cut your heating bills by up to 10%. 18-21°C is comfortable for most people

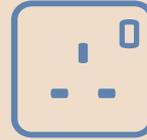


Fill up the washing machine, tumble dryer or dishwasher: one full load uses less energy than two half loads



Don't overfill the kettle: save £45*

Only boil as much water as you need. The more water in the kettle, the more electricity used



Turn off at the plug : save £55*

Switch off electrical devices at the plug when you're not using them, rather than leaving them on standby



Spend less time in the shower. Spending one minute less in the shower each day will save a typical household an estimated £45*, as well as saving on water costs



To prevent draughts: keep internal doors closed, use draught excluders at the bottom of doors, and shut curtains or blinds at night. Bathrooms and kitchens should be ventilated when being used



On a sunny day, opening your curtains will let warmth into your house, but when it's colder or the sun goes down don't forget to close them to keep that heat in



Understand how your heating and hot water system works. Your home may have a thermostat and programmer controls. Make sure you know how to use them to run the system in the most energy-efficient way

Smart meters

Smart meters are the new generation of gas and electricity meters, which will replace the traditional meters in our homes. Every home in England, Scotland and Wales will be offered a smart meter at no extra cost, between now and 2025.

With a smart meter, you get a small digital display that lets you see exactly how much energy you're using, and how much it costs. This will help you to control your energy use. You can also get Pay as You Go (PAYG) smart meters. You'll be able to top up online or over the phone, and see exactly how much you have left at all times.

Smart meters also mean your bills are exact, not estimated, and you'll no longer need to take manual meter readings.

If you look after your own energy supply, you can contact your supplier and ask for a smart meter to be installed.



Buying new appliances



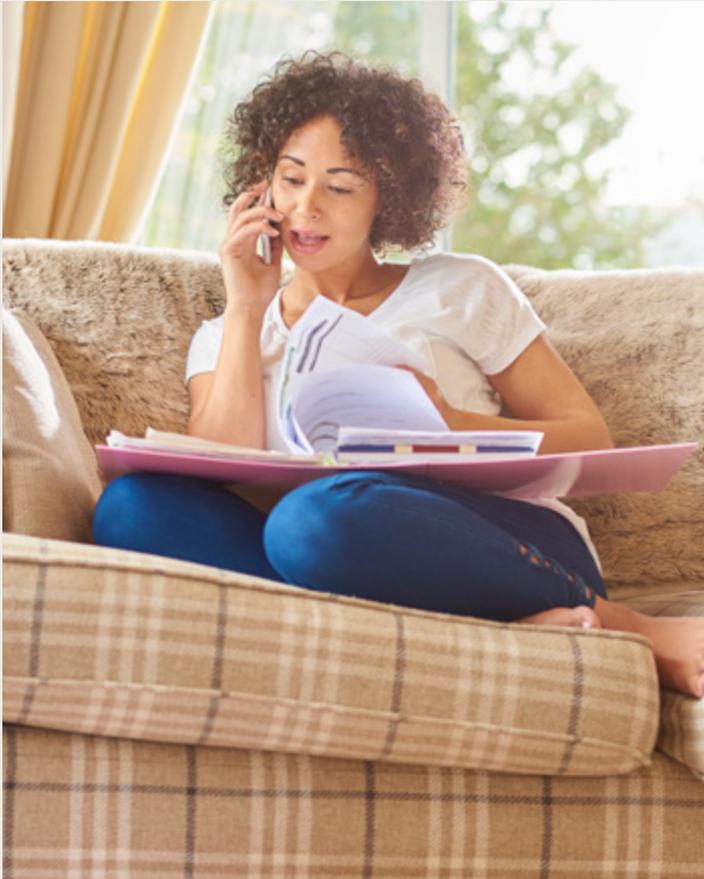
When buying new appliances, think about the running costs as well as purchase price.

All appliances are tested for how much energy they use. They're rated on a scale of A to G, with A being most efficient, and G being the least. Some appliances use an older scale that goes from A+++ to D, with A+++ being the most efficient. If you're not sure, ask the store or website you're buying from.

Recommended room temperature

Aim for at least **18°C** Aiming to keep rooms above 18°C is healthy for you and your home

Talk to your energy supplier



Payment method - Are you on the best payment method for your budget? Pay as You Go meters are the most expensive payment method. Using them puts you at a higher risk of disconnection, because you need to stay topped up. Direct Debit will likely be a cheaper solution.

Tariff check - Contact your supplier to make sure you're on the cheapest tariff. As wholesale prices have risen, switching supplier or tariff has become more difficult, but keep checking as wholesale prices constantly change.

Smart meters - Check with your supplier if they're offering smart meters. With a smart meter you will be able to track your day-to-day energy usage and find out where you can save energy and money.

Debt repayment plans - Tell your energy supplier that you want to pay off your debts in instalments, as part of a payment plan. You can agree with them what you can afford and pay fixed amounts over a period of time, covering what you owe, and the current usage. They may also be able to give you payment breaks, or refer you to a hardship fund.

Money towards your energy bills

Warm home discount - This £140 off your winter electric bill is available from most large electric suppliers and runs annually. Applications are only open for a limited period every year. Call your electricity supplier to find out if you're eligible.

Winter fuel payment - If you were born on or before 26 September 1955, you could get between £100 and £300 to help you pay your heating bills during the winter months. Payments are made automatically between November and December each year. If you have not made your claim or have not received your payment, call the Winter Fuel Payment Centre on **0800 731 0160**.

Cold weather payments - If you receive certain benefits, you'll receive a payment if the average temperature in your area is recorded or forecast to be below zero over seven consecutive days. This is paid automatically but you can check if you're eligible with the Department for Work and Pensions.

Local energy grants - Check if you can get a local energy grant via www.simpleenergyadvice.org.uk/grants, or call them on **0800 444 202**. You might also be able to find grants or schemes run by your local council via the Household Support Fund. Find your local council on www.gov.uk.

Talk to us - We'll be able to let you know about any support available such as financial support from your local authority, additional benefits to help towards fuel costs, and government discount schemes to reduce your fuel bills. Contact us online: www.hyde-housing.co.uk/contact-us or call us on **0800 3 282 282**.



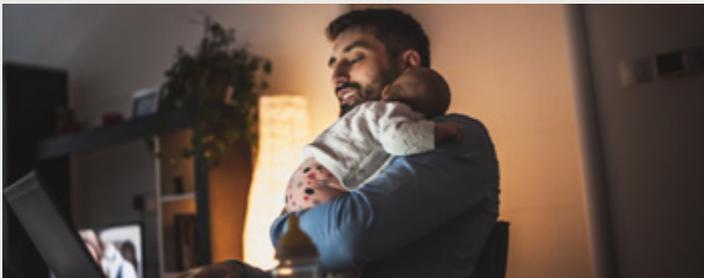
Help available

Contact your local authority. Many local councils have put together support packages for people who are struggling to pay their bills. Make sure to contact them to ask what's available.

Keep an eye out for any new schemes announced by the Government, your energy supplier or your local council, that can benefit you.

The Priorities Service register is a free and voluntary system overseen by OfGem, that your energy supplier uses to ensure the right support is given to its most vulnerable customers. This could include:

- Large-format or Braille bills
- Advanced notice of service interruption
- Priority in a power cut
- Quarterly meter readings.



Who else can help?

Search for what else is out there. Websites like www.moneysavingexpert.com are great sources of information on how to save money.

National Energy Action warm and safe homes advice
0800 304 7159 | www.nea.org.uk/wash-advice

Citizens Advice consumer service
0808 223 1133 | www.citizensadvice.org.uk/energy

If you want some free, independent and confidential advice around helping manage your finances, you can contact:

StepChange debt charity
0800 138 111 | www.stepchange.org

National Debtline
0808 808 4000 | www.nationaldebtline.org

Remember, we're here to help too.
Contact us online, or call 0800 3 282 282



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You can find more energy
saving tips, as well as
help understanding your
energy bills on our website
www.hyde-housing.co.uk