

# Why are my electricity bills so high?

**Do you have electric heating?**

Electric heating is a lot more expensive than gas central heating, especially if you have electric radiators or old storage heaters.

**Do you have storage heaters?**

They heat up during the night and let the heat out during the day. Make sure the storage heaters are set up correctly and are only using the cheaper night time electricity. Avoid using the boost function if at all possible as this uses a lot of electricity.

**Do you have electric radiators?**

Electric radiators are very expensive to run. Make sure you only heat the rooms that are needed, use the thermostats on the radiators if they have them and set to 18 – 21 degrees (the lower it is, the cheaper it will be to run) and always shut the doors to keep the heat in.

**Do you have an immersion heater?**

Immersion heaters use a lot of electricity. They heat the water up to a high temperature and will keep using electricity to keep the water at that temperature. Ensure that your immersion heat or hot water tank, is only on when you need it. You might need to experiment to find out how long it takes to heat up the water and how long the water stays for. Add an insulation jacket to the tank, they are cheap to buy and it will make a massive difference as your tank won't have to work so hard to keep the water hot. If you don't have a timer then you can switch off at the switch and consider getting an electrician to install one.

**Do you use plug in heaters?**

Plug in heaters may be small but they are very expensive to run. For example, a 2kwh heater costs around 54p to run for 1 hour, which would mount up during the day. It may be cheaper to consider an electric blanket or even a hot water bottle for heating during the day time.

**Do you have the heating over night?**

As the cost of electric heating is so high avoid using it at night time. Ensure that you keep cosy and warm with layers of blankets, a hot water bottle and if you're still cold then electric blanket is cheaper to run and you can use the timer on it so it's not on all night.

**Do you have an electric shower?**

Electric showers are expensive to run (29-44p per 10 minutes). A 15 minute shower would typically cost 56p, if you can reduce this to 4 minutes it will cost more like 15p.

**Do you have any other appliances that use heat?**

Anything that heats up will use a lot of electricity, including heated tropical fish and amphibian tanks. SMART meters can be really use in understanding how much your appliances cost you.

**Do you have any old appliances?**

Old appliances are often very inefficient and sometimes can malfunction and use a huge amount of electricity, especially old fridges, freezers and chest freezers. A SMART meter or electricity monitor (ask us for a free one) can help you get to the bottom of if this is the cause of the high bills.

**Do you use lots of electrical appliances?**

Appliances such as wide screen TV's use quite a bit of electricity. Make sure any appliances are as energy efficient as they can be (A is the highest efficiency for new appliances). Also make sure things are turned off standby when you're not using them.

**Still not sure why your electricity bills are so high?**

Ask you energy company for a SMART meter. A SMART meter has an in-house display which tells you how much electricity you're using and how much it's costing you. If you turn everything off in the house and then turn them back on one at a time gradually over the day, you should be able to monitor the SMART meter display to find out which appliance is costing so much. If you don't want a SMART meter then ask for a free electricity monitor. This will show you the same information but will not send it to your supplier.

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