

Smart meters and renting

Everything you need to know

Smart meters measure how much energy you're using in near real-time, show you what it's costing you on a handy in-home display, and automatically send your meter readings to your supplier. They're installed for you at no additional cost, replacing analogue credit and prepay key meters.



It's your choice

Even if you rent your home, if the energy bills are in your name, then it's your choice to request a smart meter from your energy supplier.

It's recommended that you let your landlord know before you make the change. If you have a clause in your tenancy agreement which says you need your landlord's permission, the energy regulator Ofgem says they shouldn't unreasonably prevent it.

Requesting a smart meter is one simple step you can take before winter to help you get more control over your energy use and bills. Here's what other private renters are saying:

Nearly 90% who have a smart meter now would get one again if they moved house¹

7 in 10 who don't have a smart meter now, but did at their last place, would get one within the next 6 months¹

¹Opinium Research for Smart Energy GB, private renters study Oct 2022

Prepay is better with a smart meter

If you prepay for your energy, upgrading to a smart meter means you can access features that you can't get with an old analogue meter. Having a smart meter means:

- you have more options for topping up your credit on the go or at home: online, over the phone, or you can still top up in a shop
- financial support from government or your energy supplier can be added to your smart meter automatically, without needing to wait for a voucher through the post

Benefits for renters

There are lots of benefits to having a smart meter if you're a renter. Smart meters:



can help you better understand your energy use at home



show you much energy you're using in near real-time, and what it's costing you



could help you identify where you're wasting energy, or where you can cut back



are one simple step you can take to get more control over your energy use and bills



could help you access schemes and tariffs that reward you for changing how and when you use energy (like National Grid Energy System Operator's Demand Flexibility Service)

How smart meters work



1. The smart meter records your energy use as you use it



2. The in-home display shows how much energy you're using, as well as your historical usage

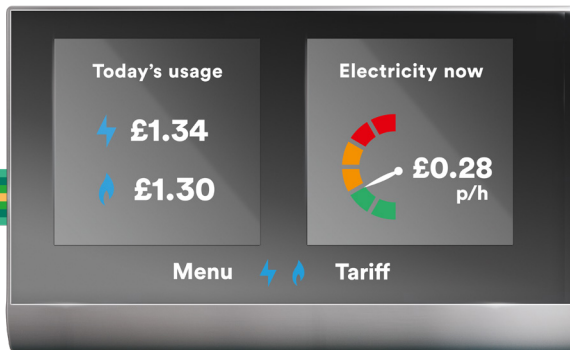


3. The smart meter automatically sends readings to your energy supplier



4. You get a bill based on the amount of gas and electricity you've used

This image shows a typical in-home display.



Figures are for illustrative purposes only

Other ways to save energy

Once you have a smart meter, it could help you to spot ways to make low or no cost changes in your home to save energy. With better visibility of your energy use, you can use it to keep track of the difference those changes make to your bills.

Some of the changes renters can make include:

- using draught excluders on windows and doors to keep the warmth in
- fitting reflectors behind radiators on external walls
- reducing the temperature on your boiler by just one degree – this can help lower your energy bills without sacrificing comfort

The Energy Saving Trust have a handy guide with more tips on how you can make changes to help reduce your energy usage without making changes to your rented property. Visit energysavingtrust.org.uk for more.

Visit these links for more tips and advice:

Great British Insulation Scheme:

gov.uk/apply-great-british-insulation-scheme

Warmer Homes Scotland:

homeenergyscotland.org

Nest scheme in Wales: nest.gov.wales

Energy Saving Trust: energysavingtrust.org.uk

Get to know the facts

There are lots of myths around smart meters, especially for people who rent. We want you to know the facts.

You get to choose to have a smart meter installed

If the bills are in your name, you can contact your energy supplier directly to request an installation. If your lease says you need your landlord's permission, Ofgem, the energy regulator, says they shouldn't unreasonably prevent it. Either way, it's recommended you let your landlord know you're making the change.

Renters like their smart meters

Our research shows that nearly 90% of private renters who have a smart meter now would get one again if they moved house¹. 7 in 10 private renters who had a smart meter in their last place, but don't now, said they would get one within the next 6 months¹.

Smart meters make it easier to keep track of your energy use and bills

With a smart meter, you can see in near real-time how much energy you're using and what it's costing you in pounds and pence. This can help you get better control over your bills and make budgeting easier.



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Smart meters are a simple step you can take to help you be more energy efficient

Once you have a better view of your energy use, you can see where you might be able to make changes to how you use energy to be more efficient while still staying warm and comfortable. If you take other energy efficiency actions, the data from your smart meter could help you see the difference they're making.



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There's no additional cost for smart meters or the installation

Energy suppliers are required to offer smart meters to all of their customers, including people who rent their home, at no additional cost as part of the national rollout. If there are any changes required to the property, your energy supplier should let you know — you should also advise your landlord if this is the case.

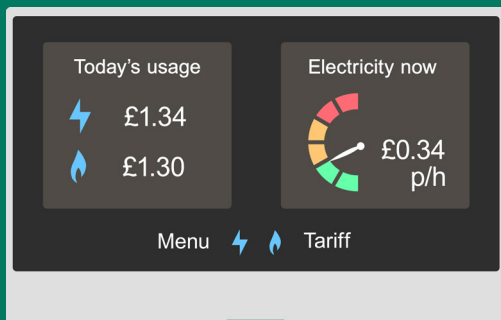
¹Opinium Research for Smart Energy GB, private renters study Oct 2022

For more information, or to request a smart meter, head to smartenergyGB.org/smart-meters-for-renters



Search “Get a smart meter” today

Requesting a smart meter is one simple step you can take to help you get more control over your energy use and bills. If you rent your home and your energy bills are in your name, it's your choice.



Eligibility may vary.
Consumer action required.

Material accurate as of October 2023