

Energy Meters

Although most people are aware that the amount of gas and electricity we use is measured by a separate meter, not everyone is familiar with the different types of meter they may have, or how to take an accurate reading themselves.

Reading your meter yourself regularly is very important, as it will help you make sure that you don't end up being charged incorrectly for the energy you use.

These are the different types of meters and how to read them.

Standard meters

Standard meters are the ones most of us have seen or grown up with. Reading them is simple, read from left to right recording any black numbers and **don't** include any red numbers.



Digital meters

Digital meters are straightforward as all you need to do to take a reading is to read the first five figures on the digital display - but **ignore** the number after the decimal point. You may need to press a button to get the reading to display.



Dial Meters

A dial meter usually has six dials. These read from left to right. You only need to read the first **five** dials - starting with the 10,000kWh dial on the left and stopping after the 1 kWh dial. Ignore a final red dial (if it's there). If any of the dial needles are positioned between two figures then it is the figure it has **just gone past** that should be recorded.



Economy 7 meters

These are for Economy 7 tariffs. An Economy 7 meter will show both night and daytime readings although they can show these in different ways. For example, certain meters, have two sets of numbers, while others have one set of numbers which is the 'day rate' and you will have to press a button to display the 'night rate.'



Pay-as-you-go (prepayment) meters

With a pay-as-you-go meter, you pay upfront before you use any gas and electricity. Standard pay-as-you-go meters can come with a single or two-rate reading, just like Economy 7 meters. You can top it up based on how much you wish to use. There are many ways to top it up, some meters use keys, others use a special card and others use tokens.



Smart meters

Smart meters work wirelessly. This sends your reading automatically, and regularly, to the energy supplier. Meaning you don't have to take your own readings. The energy companies are hoping to change over **all** energy meters to smart meters by 2020.



How to give your meter reading to your supplier

Most suppliers will let you submit your meter readings online or even by text message. Alternatively, you can phone your supplier and give them your details that way.

What if you cannot read your energy meter

If you are physically unable to read your meter, for example because you can't get to it, contact your gas and electric suppliers and they will come and take a meter reading for you.

Whichever type of meter you have, it is essential that you regularly compare the different tariffs available to ensure you are on the best possible deal.