

⚡ PAYING FOR YOUR ENERGY ⚡

There are a lot of different ways to pay for your energy, but not everyone knows about them all. Finding the way that works best for you can make your bills cheaper and easier to manage.

PAY ON RECEIPT OF YOUR BILL

You can pay your bill at the Post Office, at a bank or online.

- ✓ **Pros:** Only need to think about the bill when it arrives.
- ✗ **Cons:** Can be more expensive, can be difficult to budget (higher bills in winter than summer), there can be late payment fees.

DIRECT DEBIT

Payment taken on a regular basis direct from your bank account.



- ✓ **Pros:** There are usually discounts available, normally spreads cost evenly throughout the year, can monitor account online.
- ✗ **Cons:** Must have a bank account, you might end up over or underpaying (especially if meter readings have not been given), bank charges if not enough money in account to cover the payment.



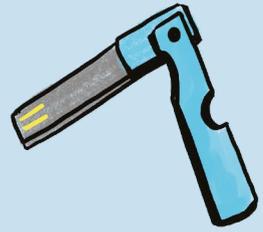
Direct Debit is normally **the cheapest way to pay your bill**, but it is only available to people who have a bank account. Be aware that you may be charged if there is not enough money in your account.

Did you know that most big high street banks offer basic accounts for free?

These accounts are open to most people as long as you are able to show some ID. They only let you spend what you have so you don't have to worry about getting overdrawn.

Find out more at: www.moneysavingexpert.com/banking/basic-bank-accounts

PREPAYMENT CARDS OR KEYS



Used with a special type of energy meter.
Pay as you go by loading credit onto a card or key.

- ✓ **Pros:** Decide how much credit to load on, no bank account needed, easily see how much fuel you are using, can pay debt together with payment for current use.
- ✗ **Cons:** Usually the most expensive option, emergency credit limited, possible travel costs and inconvenience, need to keep meter in credit to avoid problems and disconnection.

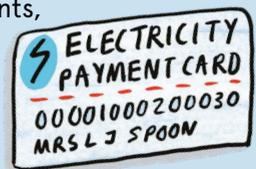


Prepayment meters are normally the most expensive way to pay for your energy. If you want to find out if you can switch to another way to pay, contact your energy provider. If this is possible, your meter will be replaced with a credit meter. They will probably need to do a credit check and there may be a charge if you are with a smaller provider. This may be balanced out by what you save in the long run.

UTILITY PAYMENT CARDS

Provided by your utility company. Offers a convenient way to make payments without having a bill to hand. Payments can be made at PayPoint or Post Office.

- ✓ **Pros:** Can make smaller, more frequent payments weekly/ fortnightly/monthly without needing a bank account, easy to budget, can be used to repay debt.
- ✗ **Cons:** No discounts, travel costs and inconvenience.



Fuel Direct, (where payments are taken directly from your benefits), is open to those receiving certain benefits who are in debt to their supplier. Ask your energy provider for more details.



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These leaflets have been put together by residents and staff from:

The Bromley By Bow Centre, EastendHomes, Gateway Housing, Spitalfields Housing Association, Tower Hamlets Homes and Tower Hamlets Community Housing. To see all of our leaflets

Visit: www.bbbc.org.uk/empower-resources

