

tec the Environment Centre (*tec*) Guide for Energy Price Comparison

Why shop around?

If you've never shopped around for a new energy deal before, it may seem a bit daunting. In reality, it is very simple and you could make big savings on your energy bills (as much as **£300** per year, according to Ofgem).

How to shop around

As a first step, you could contact your existing supplier to see if they can give you a better deal. Alternatively, to compare deals across the whole market, you can visit an price comparison website. Don't worry if you don't have access to the internet, as most of them also have a phone number to call. Always use an Ofgem-accredited organisation.

Phone and online comparison

- uSwitch (www.uswitch.com)- tel: 0800 6888 244
- My Utility Genius (www.myutilitygenius.co.uk)- tel: 0203 468 0461
- Energy Helpline (www.energyhelpline.com)- tel: 0800 074 0745
- Money Supermarket (www.moneysupermarket.com)- tel: 0800 177 7087
- Switch Gas and Electric (www.switchgasandelectric.com)- tel: 0333 370 0600
- The Energy Shop (www.theenergystore.com)- tel: 01259 220 270
- Simply Switch (www.simplyswitch.com)- tel: 0800 011 1395
- Energylinx (www.energylinx.co.uk)- tel: 0800 849 7077
- Unravel It (www.unravelit.com)- tel: 0333 344 0031



Online only comparison

- Quotezone (www.quotezone.co.uk)
- Runpath (www.runpath.com)
- Citizens Advice energy compare tool (<https://energycompare.citizensadvice.org.uk>)

Call 0800 804 8601 for free, independent and local advice

You will need to have to hand:

- ✓ Who is your current energy supplier? If you don't know who supplies your energy you can call **0870 608 1524** for gas and **0345 026 2554** for electricity.
- ✓ The name of your current plan/tariff (and, if applicable, the date that it ends).
- ✓ How much you spend or use (£ or kilowatt hours) on your gas and electricity.
- ✓ How you pay for your energy (e.g. direct debit, payment on receipt of a bill, or prepayment meter)

If you don't have this information, check your energy bill or contact your supplier.

Things to consider before switching:

- The savings shown are only an estimate and they are based on your current usage. If your usage changes, then so will the amount you pay.
- Plans/tariffs keep changing. If you decide to take some time to think before switching, do your comparison again to make sure you get the most up-to-date information.
- Does your current plan/tariff have an early exit fee? If you are on a fixed plan/tariff, there might be a charge if you decide to leave early.
- If you are a tenant, you are usually still able to switch if you are responsible for paying your energy bills. If you are unsure, check your tenancy agreement.
- Are you in debt? If you are on a prepayment meter you can still switch to a new supplier, as long as you are currently repaying your debt and you owe less than £500 per fuel. If you are on a credit meter, you will need to ask your energy supplier if they will allow you to switch.
- If you are eligible for the Warm Home Discount (discount of £140 on your electricity bill), does the new supplier offer it?
- Do you prefer paper bills or can you go paperless? Some suppliers offer discounts for paperless billing; but you will need to have access to the internet.

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