



## How to read your gas or electricity meter

This is some quick and easy advice on how to read your gas or electricity meter.

When a company supplies you with gas or electricity, they may offer you a choice between paying for it monthly or on a pay-as-you-go basis (called prepayment). It is important to know how to read your meter so you know that you are paying the right amount for your gas and electricity.

### Paying monthly or quarterly

If you pay your electricity on a monthly or quarterly (every three months) basis, then your bill will be based on your meter reading. Someone from your energy company will visit your home a few times a year to read your meter. If your energy company is not able to get a meter reading they will estimate the amount used when they work out your bill. If they send you an estimated bill, you can take a meter reading yourself, tell them, and then ask for a correct bill.

If you would like to learn more about how to read your electricity meter contact your supplier. Alternatively, you can visit the [www.moneymatterstome.co.uk](http://www.moneymatterstome.co.uk) website as this contains advice on reading and understanding your meter. Being able to read your meter will help you manage how much electricity you use, and spot any problems that may occur.

### Prepayment meters

A prepayment meter allows you to pay for your electricity or gas as you use it. Prepayment meters are useful if you are trying to manage a budget or if you feel that you may have difficulty paying your bill. Your electricity or gas supplier may also replace your



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standard meter with a pay-as-you-go meter if you have had problems paying your bill.

If you are prepaying, you will need to pay for your electricity before you use it. This is done either by charging a key or card your electricity supplier with give you or by buying tokens to put in your meter. Although a prepayment meter is helpful for people who need to manage their household bill, they tend to be more expensive.

You can find out more about prepayment meters by contacting your electricity supplier or by visiting [www.energychoices.co.uk](http://www.energychoices.co.uk).



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