

# If you're on a tight budget a smart meter could make life easier



## What is a smart meter?

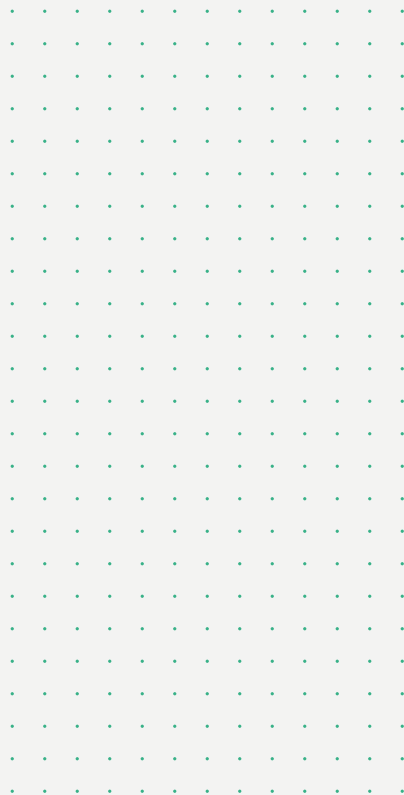
Smart meters are the next generation of gas and electricity meters. They are being installed in homes across Great Britain at no extra cost, to replace traditional meters.

Unlike traditional meters, a smart meter sends your gas and electricity readings directly to your energy supplier so you don't have to — very handy!

Plus, smart meters enable accurate, not estimate bills — meaning, you only pay for what you use.



**Smart meters enable accurate billing, helping you take the stress out of budgeting and putting you back in control.**



\*Data courtesy of the Energy Saving Trust, 2021

## How can a smart meter save me money?

A smart meter could help you with your household budgeting. The in-home display (IHD) which you'll receive with your smart meter, shows you in near-real time the amount of energy you use in pounds and pence. Allowing you to keep a closer eye on your energy spending habits.

This could help you find ways to reduce energy waste around your home and save money. For example, you could save around £35 a year just by remembering to turn your appliances off standby mode\*.

## Where else can I make savings?

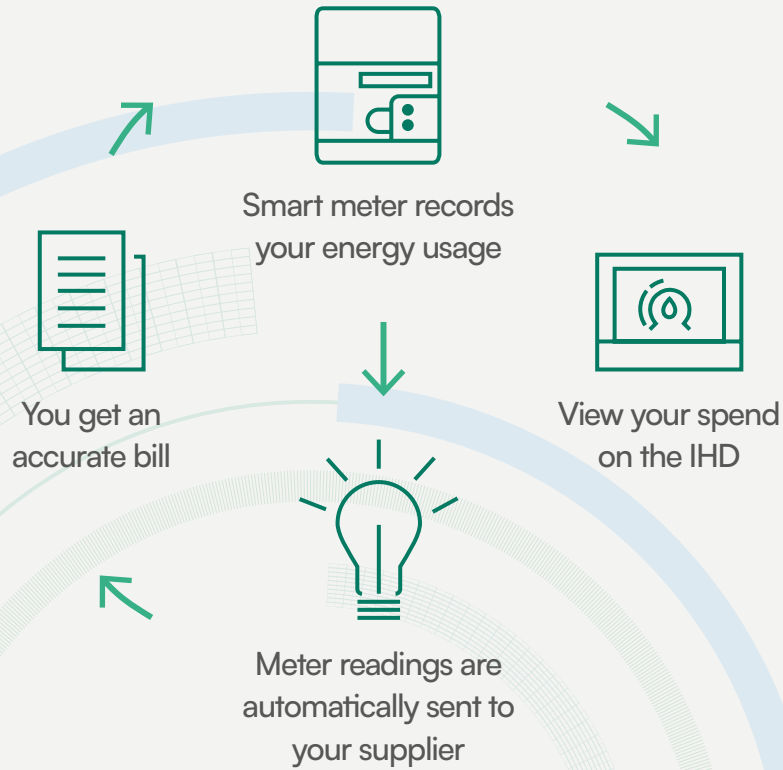
Smart meters could also help you switch to a better deal, as you'll have accurate energy usage information which can help you choose the supplier and tariff that suits you best.

## What if I am on prepay?

No problem! With a smart prepay meter, it's easier to see what remaining credit you've got left using your IHD, so you can avoid the lights turning off at the most inconvenient times. It also means you can top up whenever it suits you — online, via mobile or at the shop.



## How does it all work?



## What does the in-home display show you?



Energy suppliers offer different IHDs, which means yours may look different to your friend's or neighbour's. But all IHDs will provide the following information and functionality:

### 1. Electricity and/or gas usage, meaning:

- you can change between pounds and pence and kilowatt hours
- you can see your usage per day, per week and per month
- you can see whether you are using a low, medium, or high amount of energy

### 2. Comparison of your usage in weeks or months, meaning:

- you can see your near-real time usage for different time periods and then compare them manually

### 3. Ability to set budgets, meaning:

- as on some IHDs, you can set targets in pounds and pence or kilowatt hours to help budget for your daily, weekly or monthly usage
- helping you to monitor how you are doing against your target, so you can make changes around the home to ensure you remain in budget

# How does the installation work?

Here's a few important things you'll need to consider before your installation:



Agree a time and date with your supplier that you can be home for the installation. An installer will never turn up unexpectedly.



Make sure you know where your current meters are and take steps to ensure they're accessible for the installer.



The installer should present you with a valid identity card upon arrival, which you can ask to see if the installer does not present it upfront.



It takes around one hour for your electricity meter, and around one hour for your gas meter. Your energy supply will be cut off for a short period, but you'll need to be present for the installation. If you have a health condition reliant on energy supply rest assured this will be addressed during your appointment booking.



If you're having your gas meter installed, the installer will perform a visual safety check on your gas appliances they are made aware of.



Once fitted, your installer should show you how to use your in-home display and offer energy-saving advice.



## OK, let's do it

Get in touch with your energy supplier about installing your smart meter. You'll find their details on your gas and electricity bill.

### Please note:

Eligibility of smart meters may vary. Consumer action is required to obtain cost savings and budgeting benefits of smart meters.



# Make life a little easier so you can focus on the important stuff

