

Understanding your gas bill

Why are bills complicated?

Energy bills are getting easier to understand, as there has been lots of pressure applied to energy companies over the years to simplify bills. Many people are frightened by terms like kWh's and MPRNs, as they are not used by many people in day to day living. Energy bills have lots of numbers on them, and most people are frightened by numbers to some degree. Whilst bills may become easier to read in the future, most of us will always find them challenging.

Becoming energy bill aware

Once you become energy bill aware, you are more likely to read your energy bill, and then more likely to think about energy efficiency, and then more likely to regularly switch suppliers.

What is the key information I need to know?

123456789	Gas meter point reference (GMPR) number 123123123	Energy Company 0800 123 456 Mon-Fri 8am - 8pm														
Date of bill: 21 December 2021																
<p>Mr Smith 1 Great Street Oldham OLO 00L</p> <p>Hello Mr Smith</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Your Gas Bill</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td colspan="2" style="text-align: center;">For 19 November 2021 - 20 December 2021 (31 days)</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> <td>The balance on your latest bill</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£10.00 in credit</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">2</td> <td>You paid us 1 payment of £60</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£60 Debit</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">3</td> <td>Your charges for this period (Including VAT@5%)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£52.66</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">4</td> <td>Your new account balance</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£2.66 in debit</td> </tr> </table> <p>Your new account balance is 1 (£10.00) + 2 (£40) - 3 (£52.66) = 4 (- £2.66). This becomes the balance on your next bill and shows whether you owe the energy company any money.</p>			For 19 November 2021 - 20 December 2021 (31 days)		1	The balance on your latest bill	£10.00 in credit	2	You paid us 1 payment of £60	£60 Debit	3	Your charges for this period (Including VAT@5%)	£52.66	4	Your new account balance	£2.66 in debit
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The account number is unique to you and you should use this whenever you are talking to the energy company.

The MPRN is unique to your property and you need this when switching suppliers, or if you have a gas leak.

How much money was on your account from your previous bill.

What you paid this month.

How much gas you were billed this month.

Account Number 123456789

Energy Company

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0800 123 456

Mon-Fri 8am - 8pm

Gas					
Meter 123123123			Tariff: Best tariff 2021		
Period	Previous reading	Latest reading	Gas units used	kWh rate	Charge
19 November 21 -	56325	56365	40	3.50 pence	£44.91
20 December 21	A (Actual)	E (Estimate)	= 1,283 kWh		
Standing charge (31 days @ 25.00p per day)					£7.75
Total gas charges for this period excluding VAT @ 5%					£52.66

The reading taken at the end of your last bill minus the reading taken on the 20th December.

= units used (40)

£0.035 is the kWh rate multiplied by units (1,283) = £44.91

Why are gas bills measured in units rather than kWh's?

Gas is something that you physically import into your home and is generally measured in cubic metres. One cubic metre of gas would equal one unit. The energy companies convert that unit into the kWh's that would be produced from burning that gas. The calculation is long, but is fairly straightforward:

$Gas\ units\ used \times 2.83 \times Calorific\ value\ 39.9 \times Volume\ correction\ 1.02264 \div 3.6 = kWh's$

Imperial or Metric?

Most gas meters are metric, but some old properties may still have an imperial meter. Metric meters measure gas in cubic metres, whereas imperial ones measure in cubic feet. If you have an imperial meter, then it is very important that your energy company knows this, as you could be being charged incorrectly and risk falling into debt. More information about the difference between metric and imperial gas meters is available in Energy Series 05 - Reading your energy meters.

Contact details

We are here to support you and you can contact us in the following ways:



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Any Questions?...
Visit Cleo at fcho.co.uk

