

# Economy 7

## For heating and hot water

Economy 7, is an electricity tariff that means you pay a different price for your electricity at different times of day, a bit like on-peak and off-peak phone calls.

With Economy 7, the electricity you use at night costs about a third of the price of the electricity you use during the day – a big difference. The hours of cheap electricity are normally from 12 midnight until 07.00 in winter, and from 01.00 to 08.00 in summer, although this can vary between suppliers.

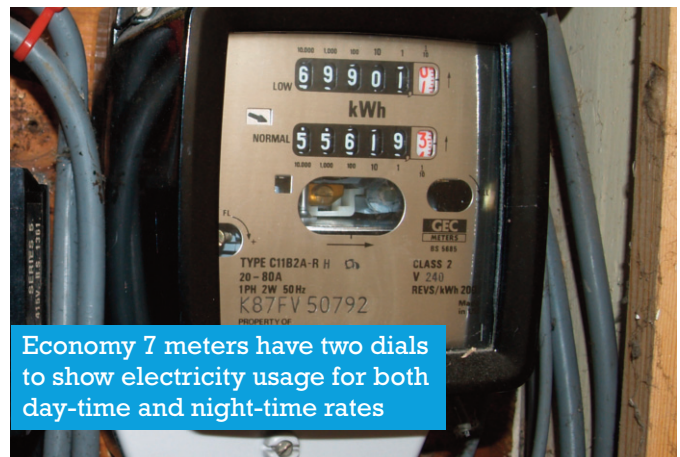
Economy 7 tariffs use a different kind of electricity meter, which, unlike a standard meter, can track the electricity you use during the day and at night separately.

### Is Economy 7 right for me?

Whilst Economy 7 gives you seven hours of cheap electricity at night, the downside is that for the other 17 hours the electricity costs more than normal – higher than the standard tariff rate. This suits certain customers, but not others. If you are paying more for your day-time

### Tips for saving money if you're on an Economy 7 electricity tariff

- Use appliances like dishwashers, washing machines and tumble dryers at night when electricity is cheaper. You could buy timers for them if this helps.
- Similarly, if possible, set the timer on your hot water tank so that the immersion heater comes on during the night, even if you use the hot water during the day.
- Consider investing in a 'slow cooker'; they use far less electricity than an oven.
- Use a microwave instead of the electric hob where possible.
- Fit energy-saving light bulbs where possible.



electricity, you should think about running appliances like your washing machine and dishwasher at night.

As a rule of thumb Economy 7 will be cost-effective if you use electricity (not gas, which is a much cheaper heating fuel) for your heating and hot water, and if you use more than 80% of your electricity at night.

For this to be the case, you're almost certainly using electric **storage heaters** (inset picture) for warming the house and have a hot water tank that is heated by electricity. This is because both storage heaters and hot water tanks can be timed to use cheap, night-time electricity and store this as heat until needed during the day.



If you heat your home and water with electricity, but don't have storage heaters or a hot water tank, Economy 7 probably won't be cost effective for you.

If you are on an Economy 7 tariff, your electricity *bill* will show a **day-rate** and a **night-rate**. Your *meter* will likewise show two sets of numbers, one marked 'low' and one marked 'normal', or else there may be a set of figures marked 'day rate' and a red button, which you press to get your night reading. If you are in any doubt whether or not you are on Economy 7, call your electricity supplier.

**Economy 7 could suit you if you live off the gas network and can use lots of electricity at night**

# Tips for lower energy bills

Don't your gas and electricity supplier more money than you need to? [Here are 15 ways to cut your bills ...](#)

**1) Keep the oven door shut as much as possible;** every time you open it, nearly a quarter of the heat escapes.



**2) Give your clothes a day in the sun; and give your tumble drier a break.** Clothes dried in the fresh air feel great, and there are drying days in winter, too.

**3) Food in the oven cooks faster when the air inside flows freely,** so don't put foil on the racks.

**4) Don't leave your phone on charge all night.** It only needs three hours – and try not to leave the TV and other kit on stand-by.

**5) Be a friend to your freezer.** Defrost it regularly to help it run more efficiently.

**6) Catch 'em young.** Encourage your children to switch off electric toys and lights that they're not using. They'll soon get the hang of saving energy.



**7) Dodge the draught!**

Fit draught-excluders to your front door, letter box and key hole, and draw your curtains at dusk to keep the heat in.

**8) When boiling water, only fill the kettle with as much as you'll actually use** (but make sure you cover the metal element at the base).

**9) Buying a new TV, washing machine or dishwasher?** Look out for the Energy Saving Trust 'recommended' logo, and remember: the bigger the TV, the more energy it'll use.



**10) Dimmer is smarter.** Use your dimmer switches to reduce the amount of energy used to light your room.

**11) Wait until you have a full load before putting on a wash.** Two half-loads use more energy (and water) than one full load.



**12) Sleep tight.** Make sure all the lights are turned off when you go to bed, or use a low-wattage night light if you do need to leave one on somewhere in the house

**13) Turn your heating down by one degree.** You'll hardly notice the change in temperature, but it'll make a big difference to your heating bill.

**14) Put your fridge in a good spot.** Somewhere the air can circulate behind it, but not next to a cooker or radiator.



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Two Rivers Housing  
Rivers Meet, Cleeve Mill Lane,  
Newent, Gloucestershire GL18 1DS

Phone  
Freephone: **0800 316 0897**

Open 8.30am - 5.00pm, Monday - Friday  
(closed on public holidays)

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Email  
customerservices@2rh.org.uk



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