



Saving energy with npower

Getting the most out of your Economy 7 tariff

npower

Economy 7

Economy 7 offers you seven hours of low cost electricity at night. This guide can help you find ways of making the most of this cheaper electricity which could save you money on your bills. You don't actually have to have electric heating to take advantage of Economy 7.

All the electrical appliances you use during the seven hour off-peak period will cost less than half the cost to run compared to using them on the standard daytime rate. However during the day, all the electricity you use will cost more than the standard rate.

To make the best savings from Economy 7, you may find it easiest to install timing devices on key electrical appliances such as dishwashers, washing machines etc, so that they automatically turn on during your off peak hours. Some appliances have a timer built in so an additional timer device may not be needed.

In order to ensure that you are making the most of your off peak hours it is best to set hot water immersion heaters and storage heaters to operate overnight when the meter is recording 'Off-peak' or LOW rate units.

Economy 7 operating times

You can make savings on your electricity bill by planning your use of electricity with Economy 7 operating times in mind.

Your off peak, or night rate, will be 7 hours falling somewhere between the hours of 10.00pm and 8.30am. The specific hours vary depending on your region, the type of meter you have and may vary by the time of year - for example, if you have a mechanical timeswitch, the night rate may start at 12am during the winter and spring GMT hours and change to 1am during summer and autumn BST hours.

The Economy 7 meter

Unlike a standard tariff meter, an Economy 7 meter usually has two rows of figures, one for the peak period (shown on the meter as "NORMAL") and one for the off-peak period (shown on the meter as "LOW"). You'll need to read both sets of figures to check the usage shown on your bill.

Most meters using the Economy 7 tariff are switched automatically from NORMAL to LOW and back again by a radio teleswitch. In older installations, instead of a teleswitch, you'll find a mechanical timeswitch mounted beside your Economy 7 meter. You must not tamper with either the meter or its controlling timeswitch.

If your Economy 7 meter has been installed quite recently, it will probably have an electronic display screen. These meters will only have a single set of numbers that display the NORMAL reading - you will need to press a red button to display the LOW reading.

How to make the most of Economy 7

Aim to minimise the NORMAL (day rate) and maximise the LOW (night rate) electricity usage. Try to plan how you use your electricity and turn off appliances you're not using – especially during the day.

Read your meter from time to time and make a note of both the NORMAL and the LOW readings. This should help you monitor when you're using the most electricity. Make the most of Economy 7 for heating water overnight using an immersion heater and timer device. It's really economical and you shouldn't need to top it up much in the day. Save money by using plug-in timers with electrical appliances – these will help to keep running costs down by switching them off when they're not needed.



If you'd like to find out more, or would like to chat to one of our team about energy efficiency in your home, please call our free Energy Efficiency Helpline on:

0800 02 22 20

or visit: npower.com/economy7

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