

# Why should I get a smart meter as a private tenant?



## About smart meters

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 (including prepay key meters). Smart meters measure how much gas and electricity you're using in near real-time, as well as what it's costing you and display this on a handy in-home display.

## Who's responsible for installing a smart meter?

There can often be confusion over who is responsible for installing a smart meter. If you pay the bills for the gas or electricity in your rented home, you can choose to have a smart meter installed. It is recommended that you tell your landlord before you get one. There might be rules in your contract about how energy is supplied, including the type of meter that can be installed. If your tenancy agreement says you need your landlord's permission to change the meter at your home, Ofgem says your landlord or letting agency shouldn't unreasonably prevent you from getting a smart meter.

If you'd like to ask your landlord about getting a smart meter, use our handy templates on our website [here](#).

## Benefits of smart meters

There are lots of benefits to having a smart meter installed. A smart meter can help you save money by showing how much energy is being used in near-real time, which can encourage reduced energy consumption and in turn contributes to reducing our carbon footprint.

As a private tenant, the benefits for smart meters are:

- smart meters let you see what you're spending in pounds and pence on your in-home display helping you keep on top of your energy bills
- smart meters send automatic readings to your supplier meaning your bills will be accurate, and accessing your usage history can make splitting household bills between flat mates much simpler
- smart meters offer more ways for you to pay for your energy. You can choose to pay for energy in advance, topping up online or in shops or you can pay for energy after you have used it through a monthly or quarterly direct debit payment
- smart meters accurately calculate the final bill at a change of tenancy reducing the likelihood of disputes between the tenant and landlord
- smart meters can help you become more energy efficient by helping you understand how much energy your appliances are using

