

Buying domestic heating oil

Between 1 April 2026 and 31 March 2029, the government is spending over £50m to help households with the soaring cost of heating oil. The money will be distributed through the Crisis and Resilience Fund by local councils.

You can read more about it on the [government's website](http://www.bit.ly/4uR4RVz) (www.bit.ly/4uR4RVz).

Get in touch with your local council to find out how to apply.

Read on for more helpful information about heating oil ...

The domestic heating oil market is complex, and many people find it hard to get a competitive price.

Finding a cheaper supply

There are independent websites that allow you to track the price of heating oil and find a better price: examples of these are [BoilerJuice](#) and [Fuel Tool](#). New heating oil customers tend to get a better price than long-standing ones. So, if you've been with the same supplier for ages, it's worth having a look around for a better deal.

Another option is joining an oil buying club. These are groups of households who join up to negotiate a better price through bulk purchasing. The Oil Club is a good place to start. They claim to save their members “£100's on the cost of heating oil each year”, though we can't verify this.

If you can afford to – and have suitable and secure storage – then you can also save money by buying your heating oil in bulk during the summer months when prices are lower. Note that this will leave you with a valuable commodity at the end of your garden that may attract thieves; you may find [these tips](#) on how to protect your oil tank useful.



Domestic heating oil is expensive. Could you switch to a cheaper alternative?



If you can afford to bulk buy domestic heating oil in the summer when demand is lower, you may save money



Alternatives to oil

Have you ever considered moving off oil altogether?

The Boiler Upgrade Scheme is a government initiative aimed at increasing the take up of non-fossil fuel heating systems. In March 2026 it was offering the following significant incentives to householders:

- **£7,500 off the cost and installation of a heat pump (both air source and ground source).**
- **£5,000 off the cost and installation of a biomass boiler (only for properties in rural locations not connected to the gas grid).**
- **£2,500 off the cost of an air-to-air heat pump**

Or how about getting some of your water heating needs taken care of by the sun? You could get solar panels and a solar diverter to store excess energy as hot water. We have a webpage about domestic solar power here:

www.cse.org.uk/solar-pv



Alternatively, have you investigated whether you could get connected to mains gas? A modern high-efficiency gas condensing boiler is significantly cheaper to run than its oil-fired equivalent, though connecting your home to the gas network will cost you money.

To get connected, you need to contact the gas distribution network for your area. If you're unsure who they are, you can find out here: findmygdn.co.uk.

In the past, some network operators have offered grants to vulnerable households.

Finally, don't forget that the best way to reduce your heating costs is to reduce the amount of fuel you use. If your oil-fired boiler is old or unreliable, then you'll reduce your running costs by replacing it with a more efficient one. And make sure that your home is well insulated. For lots more information about saving energy in your home, see our website, in particular the following pages:

[Loft insulation](#)

[Cavity wall insulation](#)

[Solid wall insulation \(internal\)](#)

[Solid wall insulation \(external\)](#)

[Floor insulation](#)

[Secondary glazing](#)

[Energy efficient glazing & external doors](#)

► This factsheet was updated in June 2026, using information, including energy prices, current at that time ◀

To go to our Buying Heating Oil webpage, scan the QR code or click the button.



Go to
webpage



We're a charity (298740) supporting people and organisations across the UK to tackle the climate emergency and end the suffering caused by cold homes.

St James Court, Bristol BS1 3LH
cse.org.uk

We offer free advice on domestic energy use to people in central southern and southwest England.

Contact us:

0800 082 2234

home.energy@cse.org.uk

See all our energy advice pages at www.cse.org.uk/advice