

Buying domestic heating oil

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

Finding a cheaper supplier

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](#). As in the gas and electricity market, 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 live in Bath & North East Somerset, North Somerset, Bristol or South Glos, then you could become a member of the West of England Rural Network (WERN)'s [oil buying club](#). Membership is free to people



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

aged over 70 at the time of writing. Note that in March 2026 WERN temporarily suspended the community oil-buying scheme because of market uncertainty. They "hope to be in a position to place our next order in April".

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.

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 an air source



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



heat pump.

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

Or how about getting some of your water heating needs taken care of by the sun? Solar hot water panels have been popular over the past 2-3 decades, but CSE no longer tends to recommend this as that system requires a lot of maintenance. Most people would be better off with solar PV and diverter to heat their hot water.

You can read about both these technologies on our website:

- [Solar hot water](#)
- [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 significantly by replacing it with a more efficient condensing oil boiler. And you should also ensure 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](#)

Tips to cut your electricity use, and save money ...



Give your clothes a day in the sun (and give your tumble drier a break). Clothes dried in fresh air feel great.

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



Only fill the kettle with as much water as you actually need (but make sure you cover the metal element at the base).

Buying a new appliance?

Remember to check the energy rating label and consider the size.



Wait until you have a full load in your dishwasher or washing machine before doing a wash. Two half-loads use more energy than one full load.

Sleep tight. Make sure all the lights are turned off when you go to bed. You can get low-wattage night lights for children's rooms or landings.



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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.

Our Home Energy Team offers free advice on domestic energy use to people in central southern and southwest England.

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