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Changing lives every day

# Money saving guide

Top tips on how to save and  
manage your money



# Broadband, TV and Phone

If you've been with your TV, phone or broadband provider for a while, you may want to consider switching. It is relatively easy to do, and many people find cheaper deals and faster broadband speeds by looking around.

## Before you switch

Check if you're still in contract with your current provider - leaving a contract before the end could attract cancellation fees, contact your current provider if you're unsure when your contract ends.

**Compare Prices** – before choosing your new provider. There are several comparison sites available, it's worth checking a few as they don't all show every provider.

**Check the available speed** for your address and the type of broadband you could receive - fibre or standard. This can normally be found on the provider's website, and will give you an estimate of what is available.

## Other things to consider

What services you need? Speed and data allowance, TV channels and calls.

- Contract length, shorter contracts, more flexibility vs longer contracts, cheapest deals
- Check if prices are introductory periods only
- Check for provider ratings
- Could you get it cheaper as part of a package? It may be worth considering if it would be cheaper to take one package for all services
- Any costs involved – some companies may charge installation, connection or delivery charges

There are many comparison sites, a few are listed below:

[www.Uswitch.com](http://www.Uswitch.com)

[www.Moneywise.co.uk](http://www.Moneywise.co.uk)

[www.Broadbandchoices.co.uk](http://www.Broadbandchoices.co.uk)

## Before you commit

Make sure you have checked all the contract details including; costs, price increases, and length of contract.

## Switch

You will need to contact your current supplier to give them notice to end your service, even if your contract term has ended. When you call to terminate, your current supplier may offer you a better deal to stay.

Once you have confirmed your switch, in most cases your new provider will do the rest.

# Energy

Switching your energy provider is a great way to save money on gas and electricity costs.

Energy tariffs usually have an expiry date, after this date your tariff ends and your supplier will most likely put you onto their standard tariff. Although standard tariff prices are capped, there are normally much cheaper deals available on selective tariffs.

You can switch supplier with any type of meter whether it's a standard, smart or prepayment.

You could be missing out on up to £300 per year by not switching supplier.

Switching energy usually takes around 10 minutes.

 You can switch online at:

[www.aurigaswitch.co.uk](http://www.aurigaswitch.co.uk)

 Or by calling Auriga Switch on **0800 9202 137**

Auriga Services Limited is a public benefit entity, profits made through switches are used to support community emergency gas / electric funds and to help ease fuel poverty. Auriga Switch searches and compares every tariff available from every supplier in the UK.

## To switch you will need:

- Your postcode
- Current supplier details plus name of tariff
- How much you spend or use in Kwh - kilowatt hours on gas and electricity
- How you normally pay for your energy (All of the above information can be found on a recent bill) Your bank details, should you decide to switch and pay by direct debit

Once you have decided to switch, you have a 14 day cooling off period if you change your mind.

There is no need for your new supplier to access your home, and you will not need to change pipes or meters (some suppliers may offer you a better tariff if you change to a smart meter though).

Your new supplier should contact you to advise the start date of your new supply, it's a good idea to take meter readings before your new supply starts.

# Energy Efficiencies

You can save money and make your home more energy efficient by making small changes to your energy behaviour. Some of the simplest ways to change which will save you money are:

Turn your lights off – this could save you **£14.00 per year**

Not leaving electrical items on standby – could save you **£50.00 per year**

Change to energy saving light bulbs – could save you **£35.00 per year**

Only fill the kettle with enough water – could save you **£6.00 per year**

Turn the thermostat down 1 degree – could save you **£80.00 per year**

There are a range of different improvements you could make to your home from draught proofing to cavity wall insulation. The costs can vary significantly but so can the savings.

# Eco Schemes

The Energy Company Obligation Scheme (ECO) is a government energy efficiency scheme to help reduce carbon emissions and tackle fuel poverty.

Funding could be available under the Home Heating and Cost Reduction Obligation (HHCRO) scheme which could help provide grants towards home energy efficiency measure such as:

- Loft Insulation
- Boilers
- Cavity Wall Insulation

Under this scheme the measures could be provided either heavily subsidised or in some cases free.

You may be eligible if you:

- Own your own home, or rent in the private sector. Housing Association and Local Authority tenants should contact their landlord
- If you are in receipt of certain benefits or a low income

You don't have to be a customer of the energy provider to qualify for their scheme.

Call us on 0800 111 4894 to check if you are eligible and to refer you through to an installer.

# Shopping

Groceries are an essential part of every household's budget. Groceries include items such as food, pet food, nappies, and baby food, cleaning products, laundry and toiletries. Although every household must buy and budget for these items, there are still ways to save money on these essentials.

## MAKE A SHOPPING LIST

Write down all the things you need to buy, this will stop you picking up items that you don't need. Writing a list can also help you plan your meals for the week ahead. Money Advice research found 60% of people who take a shopping list to the supermarket save money.

## USE LOYALTY CARDS OR POINTS

If your supermarket offers them, remember to collect your points each time you check out.

## SHOP AROUND

All shops offer different products and prices, it's worth shopping around for the best prices. You can use a comparison site to check which supermarket has the cheapest deals. You can also consider bargain shops for cleaning products and toiletries.

## WATCH OUT FOR DEALS

Supermarket deals can be a good way of saving money, but they can also tempt you into spending more. A deal is only good if you needed the item and if you can use the item before it goes out of date.

## YELLOW STICKERS

Check out any reduced items, if you would buy it normally and can freeze it, then it could be a bargain.

## OTHER QUICK WAYS TO SAVE AT SHOPPING

- Take cash, you won't be tempted to go over budget
- Pick up a basket, once it starts getting heavy you won't want to over fill it
- Take your own bags to save buying supermarket ones
- Try supermarket own brands

Supermarkets are designed and planned to influence your spending, by budgeting and preparing in advance, you can shop savvy.

# Insurance

Insurance helps you to protect your home, car, family and pets. It's there to help you in times of need, emergencies or crisis. If you don't have insurance it may be expensive to replace items, pay medical fees or cover bills.

Regardless of what type of insurance or cover you need, insurance prices can be compared to ensure you are getting the best deal.

Types of insurance

- Home
- Car
- Travel
- Pet
- Life
- Health

You can use a comparison site to search for the best insurance product. Before you start to compare, you need to know what you want covered and consider the amounts that need to be covered, for example:

**Home contents** – how much are all your contents worth

**Travel** – the cost of the holiday and the medical costs covered

There are many comparison sites, a few are listed below:

[www.Uswitch.com](http://www.Uswitch.com)

[www.moneysupermarket.com](http://www.moneysupermarket.com)

[www.gocompare.com](http://www.gocompare.com)

[www.comparethemarket.com](http://www.comparethemarket.com)

There is a lot to consider when deciding on whether to buy insurance

For information on:

- Understanding insurance and how it works
- Choosing the right level of cover
- How to use a comparison site
- How to make a claim

Go to the Money Advice Service website.  
[www.moneyadvice.org.uk](http://www.moneyadvice.org.uk)

# Budgeting

Planning a budget is a great way to review your spending, spot potential savings and stay in control of your finances. People who budget are less likely to fall into debt, more likely to save and less likely to be caught out by unexpected costs.

To start planning your budget you will need:

- **Details of your income** – pay slips, benefit letters, pension letters
- **Details of your outgoings** – bills, receipts and bank statements.

As well as all your essential items, don't forget those extra's like planning for birthdays, leisure and hobbies. **You can use our handy budget sheet on the next page to help you.**

The money you have coming in to the household is your income, the money going out of your household is your expenditure.

To work out monthly to weekly use -  
MULTIPLY BY 12 DIVIDED BY 52 =

To work out weekly to monthly use -  
MULTIPLY BY 52 DIVIDED BY 12 =

Once you have all the details of your income and expenditure you can work out what your disposable income is.

**INCOME (MINUS) OUTGOINGS = DISPOSABLE INCOME**

Your disposable income is the money you have left after paying all of your expenses.

If your outgoings are more than your income, you need to consider where you could reduce spending to help get your budget back on track. Your budget can change frequently, so try to review it every few months to make sure you're still on track.



## Debts:

You should seek advice immediately if you have fallen behind with any of your payments.

Our free, confidential and impartial Welfare Rights and Debt service can help you plan your budget and advise you on all appropriate solutions.

# Budget Planner

| Income  |        |         |
|---|--------|---------|
| Earnings  | Weekly | Monthly |
| Salary  |        |         |
| Partners Salary   |        |         |
| <b>Benefits</b>   |        |         |
| Job Seekers Allowance, Employment and Support Allowance, Income Support or Universal Credit |        |         |
| Child tax Credit, Working Tax Credit  |        |         |
| Child Benefit   |        |         |
| Disability Living Allowance/Personal Independence Payments / Attendance Allowance           |        |         |
| Carers Allowance  |        |         |
| Other Benefits  |        |         |
| Other Income  |        |         |
| <b>Pensions</b>   |        |         |
| State Pension   |        |         |
| Pension Credit  |        |         |
| Occupational Pension  |        |         |
| <b>Total</b>  |        |         |

A benefit check could help you identify any income you may be missing out on.

If you require assistance creating your budget planner or working out your expenditure, you can call us on 0800 111 4894

We can also advise you on income maximisation

| Home/Essential   | Weekly | Monthly | Compare/Switch      |
|--|--------|---------|---------------------|
| Rent   |        |         |                     |
| Mortgage   |        |         | ✓                   |
| Ground rent/Service Charge                                 |        |         | x                   |
| Council Tax  |        |         | Check for discounts |
| Building and Contents Insurance                            |        |         | ✓                   |
| TV Licence   |        |         | x                   |
| Hire Purchase  |        |         | x                   |
| Secured Loans  |        |         | ✓                   |
| Court Fines  |        |         | Seek debt advice    |
| Child Maintenance costs                                    |        |         | x                   |
| <b>Utilities</b>   |        |         |                     |
| Gas  |        |         | ✓                   |
| Electric   |        |         | ✓                   |
| Water  |        |         | Check tariffs       |
| <b>Housekeeping</b>  |        |         |                     |
| Food, toiletries, cleaning, laundry, tobacco, alcohol etc. |        |         | ✓                   |
| Clothing and Footwear                                      |        |         | ✓                   |
| <b>Travel Costs</b>  |        |         |                     |
| Car running costs, Inc. fuel, MOT, Insurance               |        |         | ✓                   |
| Bus/Train travel   |        |         | Check for passes    |
| <b>Other</b>   |        |         |                     |
| Telephone  |        |         | ✓                   |
| Mobile Phone   |        |         | ✓                   |
| Broadband/TV Package                                       |        |         | ✓                   |
| Credit Cards/Loans   |        |         | ✓                   |
| Prescriptions/Glasses/Dentist                              |        |         | Check for discounts |
| Hairdressing   |        |         | ✓                   |
| Pet costs, insurance, food,                                |        |         | ✓                   |
| Childcare costs  |        |         |                     |
| Adult care costs   |        |         |                     |
| School Costs, uniform, trips meals                         |        |         |                     |
| Other  |        |         |                     |
| Other  |        |         |                     |
| <b>Totals</b>  |        |         |                     |

For advice and assistance with comparing or switching, call us free on 0800 111 4894

# Water

Although you can't choose who supplies your water, you can look at ways to save money.

## WATER METERS:

As a general rule, if you have more bedrooms than people living in your property, you are likely to save money with a water meter. Most water companies offer a water calculator on their website to check if a water meter would save you money.

## SCHEMES:

Most water companies offer reduced tariffs and schemes to people who are on qualifying benefits or use more water due to medical conditions. This is called WaterSure and Watersure Plus. You can contact your water company to check if you qualify for

these schemes. Your water supplier may also offer social tariff discounts for certain people. The criteria for social tariffs are set by the individual water supplier.

## GRANTS AND TRUST FUNDS:

If you have arrears with your water supplier, they may have a trust fund that could help reduce these arrears and in some cases award a grant to clear the debt. They may also be able to help with replacing broken essential household items such as cookers and fridges.

Contact your water supplier for information on what schemes and grants they offer. Or you can contact us for information or assistance to apply.

# Health and Wellbeing



If you have a health or medical condition and find it difficult to manage around your home, you could ask your local authority for an assessment of your home or care needs.

The assessment is free, and they could provide you with appropriate aids and adaptations to your home at no cost.

It doesn't matter if you are a home owner or renting, although if you rent you may need permission from your landlord for some adaptations.

# Priority Services Register

The priority services register is a free service provided by gas, electric and water suppliers to customers in need. You can receive this service if you:

- Are pensionable age
- Are disabled or chronically sick or have a long-term medical condition
- Have a hearing or visual impairment or additional communication needs
- Are in a vulnerable situation
- Live with children under 5 years old

The types of services you could receive are:

- Advance notice of planned power cuts
- Priority support in an emergency
- Identification scheme
- Password Protection
- Nominee scheme
- Meter reading services
- Accessible information (e.g. large print/braille)

To register contact your energy and water supplier or your network operator.

# Warm Home Discount

The Warm Home Discount is a scheme offered by many energy suppliers. **If you meet the criteria you could receive a £140 discount off your electricity bill.**

The core group, are those in receipt of Guaranteed Pension Credit, if you receive this and your energy supplier offers the Warm Home Discount, you should receive a letter between October and December asking you to call the Warm Home Discount hotline to confirm your details.

The broader group, are those on a low income or means tested benefits. Check with your supplier for their eligibility criteria and if they offer the Warm Home Discount.



**You should register early as discounts can be limited.**

The schemes normally open between August - September and discounts are usually received by March.

For advice and assistance call us free on 0800 111 4894

**Three million healthy  
homes by 2030**

**auriga**

Changing lives every day

For more help with water and energy, download  
our help with water and energy booklet from

[www.aurigaservices.co.uk](http://www.aurigaservices.co.uk)