GETTING THE MOST FROM ECONOMY 7

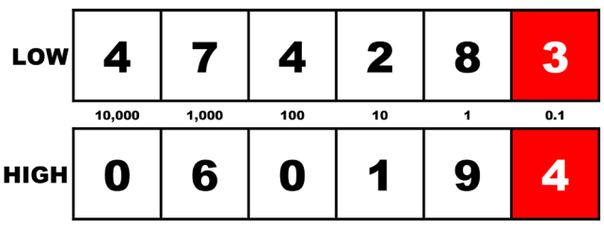
Action for Warm Homes

Economy 7 is the name of a time-of-use electricity tariff which provides cheaper off-peak electricity for 7 hours, usually between midnight and 7am. At other times electricity is charged at a more expensive on-peak rate. Economy 7 is usually only beneficial for, and found in, homes with storage heaters.

Used correctly Economy 7 can help you save money. However it may not be a suitable choice if most of your electricity is used during the day. As a general rule of thumb, for Economy 7 to be economical for you, you should be able to use at least 40% of your electricity at night. Take advice on the suitability of the tariff from your electricity supplier.

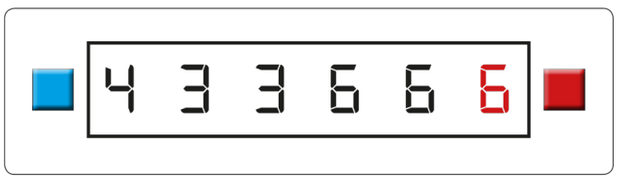
You can tell if you are on an Economy 7 tariff because your meter and bills will show either:

- two meter readings
- a low or off-peak rate
- a normal, high or on-peak rate



OR

- an electronic Economy 7 meter will have a button to press to see each rate.



ECONOMY 10 TARIFF

ECONOMY 10 is another time-of-use energy tariff that gives a cheaper night rate, but it is not as widely used as Economy 7. Economy 10 tariff provides 10 set hours of cheaper off-peak electricity:

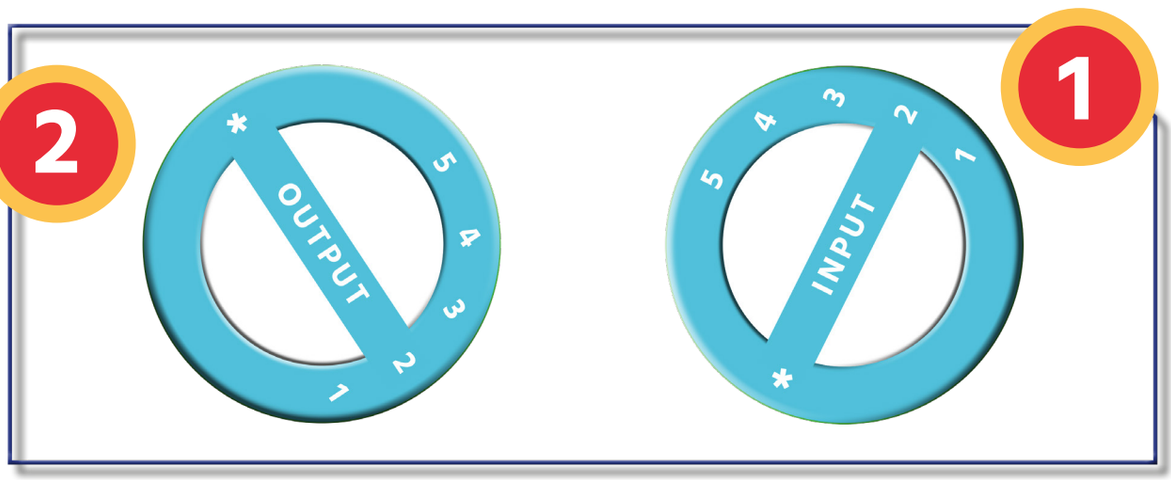
- 3 hours of cheaper electricity in the afternoon
- 2 hours in the evening and
- 5 hours through the night.

To get an Economy 10 tariff you must have an Economy 10 meter. These are different to both standard and Economy 7 meters as they have additional capability which enables them to measure the consumption of electricity between the set Economy 10 times specified by the supplier.

Not all suppliers offer tariffs that support Economy 10. There may be a choice of other tariffs that can be used for storage heating so it it worth asking your supplier.

Night Storage Heaters

Many properties use electric storage heaters storage heater uses Economy 7 or Economy 10 electricity tariff rate (night time) and then gra



To make sure you can manage your heating you must set the controls correctly.

KEY

1 The INPUT or CHARGE control regulates the amount of heat that is stored up during the night. It should be set higher in cold weather and turned down in warmer weather.

2 The OUTPUT or BOOST control regulates the rate at which the stored heat is released. It should be left on a low setting during the day and then turned up in the evening if more heat is needed.

NIGHT TIME		DAY T	
Input	Output	Input	
Set depending on expected next day temperature	Set to lowest setting or 'frost control' symbol	As for the night time	

s as an alternative to gas central heating. The 10 tariff and heats up using a less expensive radually releases the heat the following day.

Q I have Economy 7 Automatic, what is it?

More modern electric storage heaters may have controls that regulate the amount of electric charge the heater draws at night, depending on the temperature. This is called AUTOMATIC or AUTO-SET and means that the input is controlled by a thermostat. In this case the setting you choose will be adjusted automatically to account for the weather.

Storage heater safety

- Never cover storage heaters with clothes or curtains, and
- Never put furniture against them as this is a fire risk.

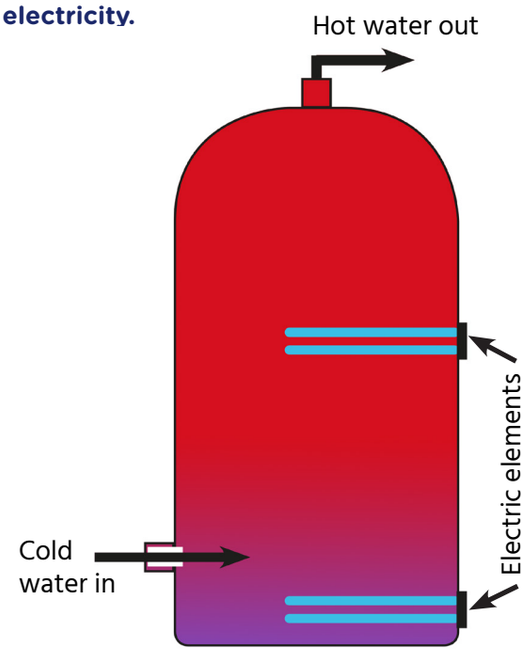
TIME		EVENING	
	Output	Input	Output
	Set to low unless extra heat is needed	As for night time	Set to high if needed but set to low again by midnight

Hot Water Cylinder

If your hot water is heated by electricity you will have an immersion heater. For those on Economy 7 or 10 tariff this will likely be a dual or twin immersion heater with one electric immersion heater element at the bottom to heat the whole tank and one three quarters of the way up the tank to heat a smaller volume of water when it is needed.

Using a timer/controller the immersion heater uses Economy 7 or 10 off-peak electricity to heat up a full cylinder of water during the night which is stored for use the following day and evening.

If more hot water is needed during the day, using the boost switch, the top electric element will heat a smaller volume of water using on-peak-rate electricity.



TIP: DO NOT leave a peak-rate immersion heater switched on when it isn't needed. You will waste a lot of money keeping water hot when you don't need it.

Check that you have good insulation on your hot water cylinder to ensure the water stays hot until you want to use it. Fitting a new cylinder jacket is both cheap and easy. The jacket should be at least 80mm thick, as approved to British Standards BS5615: 1985. New cylinders will already be foam insulated and do not require a cylinder jacket.

1. Your hot water cylinder may have a timer/clock/controller. This can be used to give you extra control over your water heating. The timer can be used to programme when the immersion heater comes on and goes off. This could help you to save money as you may only need a small amount of hot water in the morning or much later on in the evening.

2. A boost switch or dial will turn your immersion heater on for an hour to give you some additional hot water if needed throughout the day. This will use on-peak electricity and should only be used if there is no hot water remaining.

Due to the expense of on-peak electricity don't use the boost setting except when you really need the extra hot water.

If you use a time-clock it may be necessary to adjust its settings to allow for British Summer Time (BST) and back again to Greenwich Mean Time (GMT).