

The new energy price cap announced last week will push bills up by 80% from 1 October for those on variable energy tariffs. Energy regulator Ofgem estimates that this will put unit rates for electricity around 52p per kWh, up from 28p at present. Find out what that means for your electrical appliances and your finances.

From October, if you're on a variable tariff, your supplier can charge you up to the energy price cap (but not more). You'll need to wait for your energy provider to get in touch with you to find out the exact amount you'll be paying for each unit of energy. If you're lucky enough to be on a fixed tariff at the moment, your energy costs will stay the same until your contract ends.

Calculate how much your payments could be: <https://www.which.co.uk/news/article/energy-price-cap-rises-to-3549-how-will-it-affect-your-bills-aZkHR2p2t2P7>

At Which? they have recorded how much the appliances they test in their labs cost to run, and how much it'll cost to use them over the year, assuming you are paying the price-capped rate for electricity. They have worked this out according to an average use scenario, so you'll need to scale this up or down if you run your washing machine, for example, particularly often or infrequently.

Under the new energy price cap, average annual washing machine running costs will increase from just over to £63 to more than £117.

## How can you reduce your washing machine running cost?

1. Avoid running your machine repeatedly for small loads. If you can, wait longer to wash your clothes and fill your machine to about 80% full instead.
2. If your clothes aren't stained, consider a 30°C wash – which will cut energy use by 38% on average compared to a 40°C wash – or even a 20°C wash, which will use 62% less energy.
3. An energy efficient washing machine can be much cheaper than average to run.

**Tumble dryer:** Average heat pump tumble dryer running costs are going to increase from £56 to £104. If you own a condenser tumble dryer – the most energy-hungry type – they'll be much higher. Average running costs are already £140 – between two and three times higher than for a heat pump model – and will now be going up to £260.

## How can you reduce your tumble dryer running cost?

1. Consider other ways to dry your clothes, such as hanging them outdoors or on a clothes horse – but watch out for signs of damp or mould if you're forced to dry laundry indoors regularly. Open your windows if you're drying clothes indoors.
2. A heated clothes horse uses some energy, of course, but dries your clothes quicker. We're testing clothes airers in autumn, so check back soon to see the results.
3. If you do need to use a tumble dryer, clean the lint filter every time you use it to help your dryer run as efficiently as possible.

**Dishwasher:** The average running cost for a full-size dishwasher is going up from £83 to £153. For a slimline model, you'll be paying on average £136, up from £73. That's based on running the main dishwasher program five times a week across the year.

## How can you reduce your dishwasher running costs?

1. Again, wash full loads rather than running your dishwasher for just a few items.

2. But don't overload your dishwasher either: make sure you've arranged your items properly to allow water and detergent to circulate around them.
3. Make sure you're using the right dishwasher program. This will depend on whether you're primarily washing plates or delicate glassware and on how dirty they are. Most also come with an eco setting.
4. Retiring your dishwasher and washing up by hand might seem like a cheaper option. But handwashing uses much more water than a dishwasher: an important consideration, given the recent water shortage.

**Fridge Freezer:** Fridge freezer energy efficiency has improved enormously over the past 10 years. Still, they're not cheap to run. The average integrated fridge freezer currently costs £73 to run. Freestanding and American models costs more: £84 and £120 respectively. The average figures from October will be £136 for an integrated model, £155 for freestanding and £222 for American. And the most expensive fridge freezer we've tested will go up to £332 in running costs. That's based on the assumption your fridge freezer is on 24/7 – which it should be.

## How can you reduce your fridge freezer running costs?

1. cleaning the condenser coils if you can access them
2. replacing any damaged door seals
3. letting leftovers cool down thoroughly before refrigerating them
4. defrosting your freezer regularly
5. not leaving your fridge door hanging open.

**Oven energy costs:** Built-in ovens don't cost as much to run as some of the other appliances Which? have looked at, but it still pays to get an energy efficient one.

- A built-in oven costs on average each year:
- £64 for a double electric oven
- £25 for a double gas oven
- £66 for a single electric oven
- £20 for a single gas oven.

From October, those figures will rise to:

- £118 for a double electric oven
- £54 for a double gas oven
- £122 for a single electric oven
- £43 for a single gas oven

## How can you reduce your oven running costs?

1. Bulk cooking will save you money as well as time. Cook larger amounts of food at a time, and save them in the fridge for meals across the week, rather than running your oven every day.
2. Defrost frozen food in advance, so that your oven isn't having to work harder for longer getting your food to the point that it's ready to be cooked. To keep harmful bacteria at bay, do this in the fridge rather than on your kitchen worktop.
3. If you have smaller appliances, such as an air fryer or combi microwave, these might be more efficient than your oven for cooking small items. If you have a smart meter, test how much energy you're using when cooking with each appliance to see which of yours is the most energy efficient.