

Guide to buying heating oil- Page 1 of 2

This fact sheet provides some basic facts about the purchasing of heating oil to fill your oil tank—for those that have oil central heating.

Ways to source oil

- Use a price comparison type site, such as boiler juice, fuel Tool or Rix to search for oil prices in your area.
- Phone around a few oil companies and ask for their price per litre that day including VAT. Estimate the amount you might need or ask for a fill. Then call back the one with the best price.
- Join a Fuel Club – Ask your neighbours is there is one where you live. If you join a club, the oil company will contact you when a delivery is due in your area and ask if you need oil. You are not obliged to order every time. Some Heating Oil companies have their own clubs and other are organised within the local community.



Ways to pay for your oil



- ◇ A full payment will be needed for new customers and part refund given if the tank takes less oil to fill than estimated. For existing or repeat customers, payment is usually taken once the oil delivery has been made. Most will only take Debit payment and not credit card payment.
- ◇ Set up a Direct Debit with a chosen heating Oil Company and spread the cost over a year. They will usually ask for the first delivery to be paid in full and future monthly payments then build up credit for future deliveries.
- ◇ Or set aside money each month to help you budget for when you need it.

Guide to heating oil- Page 2 of 2

Do you know how to check the level of oil in your tank?

Some oil tanks have a gauge at the side of the tank. You should also have a Watchman gauge (as pictured), this is a radio signal



from the oil tanks to a unit in your house – similar to your fuel gauge in your car.

The unit indicates how much oil you have in your tank. If

you do not have one of these please contact your Asset Officer.

Looking after your oil tank

Look out for any leaks, cracks or damage to the tank and report any concerns you have.

Protect your tank from theft, consider fitting a padlock. Or ask permission to fit at your cost an alarm system that would trigger a notification and alarm if the oil level drops



Heating oil facts

- The price of oil changes daily. It is affected by various factors such as global economy, exchange rates, supply and demand. Prices are provided in cost per litre.
- The size of most oil tanks vary between 1000-1360 litres for household use.
- The more oil you buy the cheaper it will be. So buy in bulk when you can.
- Don't let your oil level run too low and leave you at risk of running out. If you do run out, you may need a Heating Engineer to come out to prime your boiler to get it started again and this cost will need to be paid by you.
- Most companies will only deliver a minimum of 500 litres.
- For every degree you turn down your thermostat you save between 1-3% of your heating bills