

## First Time Central Heating Grants FAQs

### Who can apply for first time central heating grants?

First Time Central Heating Grants are available to both homeowners and tenants in privately rented homes.

Tenants in council owned homes, in housing association homes and householders living in shared ownership homes do not qualify for First Time Central Heating Grants.

### Will I have to contribute to the cost of the central heating installation?

In most cases, First Time Central Heating Grants will cover the full cost of installing central heating in your home.

However, householders in some homes may have to contribute. You will not know this until a free survey of your home and existing heating system has been carried out.

### I don't receive any of the qualifying benefits can I still apply?

In some cases, yes. If you do not receive any of the qualifying benefits you may qualify for first time central heating grants under **ECO Flex Rules**.

Local councils can recommend that you receive a central heating grant if you satisfy their rules regarding fuel poverty. An example would be where you must spend more than 10% of your income to heat your home. Each council set their own criteria.

### I don't receive any of the qualifying benefits but someone in my home does, can I still apply?

Generally, yes. If a member of the householder is a permanent resident and receives one of the qualifying benefits you can still qualify. They must provide proof of address and their address must match that of the DWP (Department of Work and Pensions).

### What if I don't have a gas supply to my home?

First Time Central Heating Grants do not cover the cost of installing a gas supply to your home. You will also need to arrange to have a gas meter installed in your home. In most cases energy companies do not charge to install a gas meter.

If a gas supply cannot be connected to your home, first time central heating grants will fund the following:

Electric Storage Heaters

### How do I apply for a first-time central heating grant?

Householders wishing to apply for First Time Central Heating Grants should either fill in the online application or call and arrange for an assessors visit.

### What does a first-time central heating grant cover?

First Time Central Heating Grants cover the cost of supplying and installing a central heating boiler together with radiators, the necessary pipework and heating control systems.

If any plaster work is damaged during the installation this will be repaired but the grant does not cover redecoration.

### How long does it take for central heating will be installed in my home?

This is dependent on whether there is a gas connection or not. In most cases the whole process can take between 2 – 4 weeks.

### What if central heating has been fitted in my home but has been removed?

Unfortunately, you would not qualify.

First Time Central Heating Grants are their purely to help pay for the installation of central heating systems in homes which **‘do not have and have not previously had a central heating system’**.

### What if I am not sure whether central heating has been fitted in my home before but removed?

To qualify for First Time Central Heating Grants homeowners, need to sign a declaration confirming the following:

*“I, the owner of the premises, declare that to the best of my knowledge, at no point prior to the installation of the first-time central heating, first time district heating system or first-time renewable heating system, did the premises have a central heating system, district heating system, or renewable heating system nor, immediately prior to the installation, did the premises did have a working, efficient electric storage heater(s).”*

### Do I have to insulate my home before central heating can be installed?

To qualify for First Time Central Heating Grants, cavity wall insulation and roof insulation / loft insulation must be installed in your home unless it is already present prior to the installation of the central heating system.

This is to ensure that you benefit fully from the central heating system without unnecessary heat loss through the walls and roof of your home.

### Are First Time Central Heating Grants available throughout the whole of the UK?

Yes, First Time Central Heating Grants are available in England, Scotland, and Wales. Northern Ireland has its own scheme.

### Where does the money come from for first time central heating grants?

First Time Central Heating Grants are provided through the Affordable Warmth Scheme part of the Government’s ECO Scheme.

Householders who qualify for first time central heating grants are allocated funding from the ECO fund based on the results of the free home survey. The grant funding is paid directly to the ECO authorised installation company after your central heating installation is completed.

### How long will first time central heating grants be available?

First Time Central Heating Grants from the Government’s ECO Scheme should be available until March 2022.

This is when the current version of the ECO Scheme, ECO3, is scheduled to end.

Householders who think that they may qualify for First Time Central Heating Grants should apply immediately, whilst funding is available.