

What utility bills will you have to pay...?

south east water

Water approx. £470 per year*



Waste Water approx. £300 per year*



Gas and Electric approx. £1,300 per year*

*for a 4 bed house

www.ukpower.co.uk/home_energy/average-energy-bill

Here are some top tips on how to sort out your bills with your housemates

1. **Put everyone's name on the bills** make sure that one person is not held solely responsible for an account. It's the best way to get everyone to pay on time as they will not want it to affect their credit score in the long run.
2. **Don't hang around!** Get your utilities and bills set up as soon as possible. Some services such as phone line installation and broadband activation can take several weeks! Some services only offer 12 month contracts so if you set up your account late you may end up paying for months when you aren't even using the utilities at the end of the year.
3. **ALWAYS Read the small print.** Getting stung by surprise installation costs and price hikes can be a real shock, especially when you haven't budgeted for it. Make sure that you know how your contract works and what charges you may be lumped with.
4. **Go all-inclusive** if you can, it will be cheaper and less hassle to ask your new landlord if they will include bills.
5. **Take regular meter readings** make sure you take meter readings when you move in and when you move out. It is essential that you also do it during the year to make sure that you are not being over or under charged.
6. **Nip late payments in the bud.** Communication with your housemates is essential from start to finish. Meeting up at the beginning is a great way to sort out how you are going to split the bills. Keep the communication going throughout the year and make sure that anyone who makes a late payment knows that they cannot do it again.
7. **Set up direct debits** if you know how much your bill payments will be each month (for example £30 in a house of 6) then you could kindly ask everyone to set up a direct debit to your bank account for the princely sum of £5 every month. It will save you a lot of chasing up every 30 or so days. It's also worth noting that paying the bills by direct debit could save you a few bob too!
8. **Split the bills monthly** this is a really important point to stress, especially with bill payments like water which are mostly taken every 3 months. It's best that you take money from your housemates or pay them monthly as opposed to just when the bill comes through the letter box. The reason for this is that it helps you to budget and pay in smaller chunks.

www.savesthestudent.org/accommodation/guide-to-student-energy-bills.html