

Winter Payments

Winter Fuel Payment

The Winter Fuel Payment is designed to help you pay your heating bills, if you were born on or before 5 July 1951 you could get between £100 and £300 tax free. Most payments are made automatically between November and December, you should get your payment by Christmas.

Your Winter Fuel Payment should be paid automatically if you get the State Pension or another social security benefit (not Housing Benefit, Council Tax Benefit or Child Benefit).

For more information and an application form visit: <https://www.gov.uk/winter-fuel-payment/how-to-claim>

Any Winter Fuel Payments you receive won't affect your other benefits.

Cold Weather Payment

If you receive Pension Credit or certain other benefits, you are automatically paid an extra Cold Weather Payment when the temperature is at freezing point or below for seven days in a row.

Payments will be made when your local temperature is either recorded as, or forecast to be, an average of zero degrees Celsius or below over 7 consecutive days. You will get £25 for each 7 day period of very cold weather between 1 November and 31 March.

You don't need to apply, if you're eligible for a Cold Weather Payment it will be paid to you automatically. Any money you get won't affect your other benefits.

For more information visit <https://www.gov.uk/cold-weather-payment/overview>

Warm Homes Discount

This new scheme could give you a rebate of £120 towards the cost of your electricity bill (rising to £140 by 2015). If you receive Pension Credit Guarantee you should automatically receive your rebate by the end of March.

Electricity suppliers will also extend the rebate to a wider group of customers, which will vary between suppliers. You should contact your electricity supplier to see whether you are eligible. Contact numbers for the main energy suppliers are listed in the "Advice" section below.

Benefit Checks

Ensure that you are receiving all the benefits you are entitled to, you can check your entitlement on the **Age UK** website using their benefits calculator:

www.ageuk.org.uk/benefitscheck