



The Cost of Living Crisis and Powering Your Community Equipment

With increased rises in energy bills and cost of living, Medequip appreciate there may be concerns about keeping your equipment powered.



If you are worried about how much electricity your equipment will use, this guide may help.

Equipment Running Costs

This is a list of the most common electrical equipment types used in the UK, though not all equipment is available in all areas. You may have purchased some equipment privately, or you may have been assessed and prescribed equipment by your local Health or Social Care services. This information could help if you need to discuss your energy usage/costs with your next of kin, energy supplier, local charity or social services.

Equipment Type	Details	Indicative Cost Per Month	Indicative Cost Per Year
Profiling Bed	Electrical actuator systems run on minimal power requirements and only for short periods of time. Based on 3 mins per hi/lo cycle and 1 min per profile, figures based on 5 cycles per day	£1.52	£18.25
Air Mattress	Figures are based on alternating mattresses and actual use of pump for 30 mins per hour. Wattage can range from 6-15 dependent on type of mattress (e.g. High spec air mattress versus standard replacement mattress or hybrid)	£0.74 – £1.88	£8.95 – £22.63
Riser Recliner Chair	If a bed or chair is plugged in but not used, it will cost approx. 0.5p per day. If the motors are used for 15 minutes during the day, this will cost an additional 1.0p per day	£0.45	£5.47
Hoist	The hoist takes 4 hours to fully charge. It is recommended to keep the battery on charge when not in use. Figures based on a full 4 hour charge per day, which will not be necessary all the time but is used for indicative purposes	£2.00	£24.00
Bath Lift	A full charge on the battery handset will cost the user less than 1p. We recommend the handset is fully charged once per week. Cost based on twice per week charge	£0.09	£1.04
Nebuliser	Figures are based on power consumption <= 71W, Use time of 30 minutes (depending on nebulizer this could deliver 3 therapy sessions). The energy consumption is 0.0355 kWh. When using the cost rate of 34p/kWh, this equals 1.207p. The device is mains only operation	Dependant on number of weekly sessions	Dependant on number of weekly sessions
Automatic Lateral Patient Turning System	Figures are based on the Toto automated lateral patient turning system, costing between 5.8-8.2p per 24hrs of operational use. Whilst in standby the system will cost between 1.5p-3.4p per 24hrs	£1.76 – £2.48	£21.12 – £29.76
Powered Stand Assist Hoists		1.52p per full 4 hour charge	

IMPORTANT NOTE: All figures are approximate. They will vary depending on brand, how frequent you use the equipment and the other factors like body weight. All of these potential costs are based on a kWh rate of 34p from the energy price cap (Oct 2022) and are subject to change based on the fluctuating costs of energy in the current climate. Energy usage data as supplied by; Drive DeVilbiss Healthcare, Herida Healthcare, Accora, Joerns, H&M Bathlifts, Frontier Medical and Direct Healthcare.

Don't let the cost of living crisis affect your independence and the use of your vital equipment

Making small changes in how you use energy may help cover the cost of running your equipment.

Did you know?

You can save around £65* a year just by turning appliances such as your television off standby mode.



Why not?

Turn your lights off when you're not using them or when you leave a room. This could save you around £25* a year on your annual energy bills.

Did you know?

You can save around £34* a year from your energy bill just by using your washing machine more carefully, such as using your washing machine on a 30-degree cycle instead of higher temperatures.



Why not?

Avoid overfilling the kettle and save yourself £13* a year on your electricity bill.

*Source of data from the Energy Saving Trust: energysavingtrust.org.uk.

Data is based on a typical three-bedroom, gas-heated home in Great Britain, using a gas price of 10.3p/kWh and electricity price of 34.0p/kWh (based on Energy Price Guarantee October 2022).

Frequently Asked Questions

How could I get help with my energy bills?

The Priority Services Register is a free support service that makes sure extra help is available to people in vulnerable situations. Please visit:

www.nationalgrid.co.uk/customers-and-community/priority-services/benefits-of-being-on-our-register

What if there is a power cut?

The National Grid Priority Services Hub provides extra help and additional support during a power cut for elderly, very ill or disabled people, or those who rely on power for medical equipment. For more information, please visit:

www.nationalgrid.co.uk/customers-and-community/priority-services.

While power cuts can still happen, the National Grid will do everything they can to keep you connected.

Call 0800 0328 301 (9am to 5pm) or text POWERCUT and POSTCODE to 07537 402 105.

How can I learn more about the support available to me and general advice this winter?

Winter Fuel Payment

Winter fuel payment for people born before 26 September 1956. Please visit:

www.gov.uk/winter-fuel-payment.

Keep Warm and Keep Well

NHS advice to keep warm and keep well. Please visit:

www.nhs.uk/live-well/seasonal-health/keep-warm-keep-well.

Keep Warm This Winter

Age UK advice to keep well this winter. Please visit:

www.ageuk.org.uk/information-advice/health-wellbeing/keep-well-this-winter/winter-guide.

Taking Charge Campaign

The campaign offers free 30 minute interactive webinars that show you ways of reducing your energy bills along with easy read guides and toolkits to support you. Please visit:

www.takingchargeenergy.co.uk.

Centre for Sustainable Energy

An independent national charity that shares knowledge and experience to help people change the way they think and act on energy. Please visit:

www.cse.org.uk.