

BEST WAYS TO BUY PREPAID ELECTRICITY

The best way to purchase electricity is once in the month, only as much as you need, and only when you need it. Here are some common myths that, if you believe them, may cost you more:

MYTH	TRUTH
The amount you pay per unit is different depending on which suburb of Cape Town you are in.	YOUR PROFILE DETERMINES WHAT YOU PAY The City has a number of tariffs and, depending on your profile (for instance, your age (pensioner), income, property value, usage etc.) you will have one of these tariffs applied to your meter and not because of the suburb that you live in per se. Property value is one of the considerations.
You should buy units on the 1 st of the month if you want to get the full free units, otherwise the amount you get drops throughout the month.	YOU DON'T HAVE TO BUY ON THE 1ST OF THE MONTH TO GET FREE UNITS Free units or free basic electricity is only applicable to customers on the Lifeline Tariff. Two free allocations are applied depending on the average level of consumption: either 60 units if you use less than 250 kWh per month on average / 25 units if you use between 250 kWh and 450 kWh per month. Free units are granted on your first purchase of every calendar month, irrespective of when that is.
You should buy units on the 1 st of the month because the rate per unit increases as the month goes on.	IT ISN'T CHEAPER TO BUY ON THE 1ST OF THE MONTH The City has an inclining block tariff which is refreshed every month, so if you only purchase in the first block, you pay the same amount; the higher cost of the second block kicks in once you reach the threshold.
You should buy as many units as you can in one go as they are cheaper in bulk.	BUYING IN BULK IS NOT CHEAPER! ONLY BUY WHAT YOU NEED! You should only buy what you need in a given month - this will limit your cost. The moment you buy in bulk, you move onto the second block which is more expensive. So, buying in bulk can be considerably more expensive.
You should rather make many small purchases in the month so that you stay within the cheapest block rate with each purchase.	YOU DO NOT NEED TO MAKE MANY SMALL PURCHASES TO SAVE MONEY So long as you purchase only what you need for the month, rather than buying in bulk, your costs will be minimised.
You pay more per unit when you use electricity in winter months or during the peak hours in the evening.	THE PRICE IS THE SAME NO MATTER THE TIME OR SEASON Residential tariffs do not differ according to the time of the day or the year.



CITY OF CAPE TOWN
ISIXEKO SASEKAPA
STAD KAAPSTAD