

Fact Sheet

Useful Information



Weather

Britain is an island country and the surrounding sea gives England a varied climate. We never know what the weather will be like from one day to the other. It can be sunny one day and rainy the next. As we have such a variable climate changing from day to day, it is difficult to predict the weather. In general we have warm summers and cool winters. Our summers are cooler than those on the continent, but the winters are generally milder.

Temperate Climate

The overall climate in England is called temperate maritime. This means that it is mild with temperatures not much lower than 0°C (32°F) in winter and not much higher than 32°C (89.6°F) in summer. It also means that it is damp and is subject to frequent changes.

Warmest and coldest months

July and August are normally the warmest months in England.

Around the coasts, February is normally the coldest month, but inland there is little to choose between January and February as the coldest month.

Rain is fairly well distributed throughout the year, with late winter/spring (February to March) the driest period and autumn/winter (October to January) the wettest.

Sunshine

During June, July and August (the months of longest daylight) the mean daily duration of sunshine varies from five hours in northern Scotland to eight hours on the south coast of England.

During the months of shortest daylight (November, December and January) sunshine is at a minimum, with an average of an hour a day in northern Scotland and two hours a day on the south coast of England.

Bank Holidays

On Bank Holidays or Public Holidays, most commercial operations close down apart from tourist areas, although many retail outlets are now allowed to open from 10am - 4pm or 11am - 5pm.

Listed below are the common UK bank holidays. Depending on whether you live in Scotland, Northern Ireland or England / Wales there will then be 1 or 2 additional days to reflect dates of regional importance.

- New Year's Day 1st January
- Good Friday Date varies - usually March/April
- May Day - usually the first Monday in May
- Spring Bank Holiday Usually the last Monday in May
- Summer Bank Holiday Usually the last Monday in August
- Christmas Day 25th December
- Boxing Day 26th December

If the bank holiday should fall on a weekend then the following Monday is taken as a holiday.

Voltage

In the UK the electricity supply is 240 volts, AC single phase, 50 Hertz. Plugs are square, 3 pin, and fitted with fuses dependent on the appliance being used. Check before using any overseas appliances, as they may not be compatible.

TV Licence

In the UK it is a legal requirement to purchase a TV Licence to use any television-receiving equipment to watch or record TV programmes as they are being shown on TV. These include programmes on the BBC, ITV, Channel 4, Channel 5, cable and satellite television. Television-receiving equipment includes:

- TV sets
- set-top boxes
- DVD recorders
- video recorders
- computers and laptops
- mobile phones or other battery-operated devices games consoles.

A television licence allows the person named on it and any member of their household to use one or more television sets or video or DVD recorders at the address covered by the licence. If you are covered by a licence at your home address you are also covered to use a battery-powered device, such as a laptop or mobile phone, to watch live TV when you are away from home.

A TV licence can be purchased on line www.tvlicensing.co.uk and there are four ways you can pay, weekly, monthly, quarterly and yearly

If you would like more channels, such as Sky One and CNN, subscription TV is available via digital, satellite or cable for additional channels, such as sports or music television. Your property may already have equipment installed to receive these, but if you wish to install any new equipment you must obtain the landlords permission in writing before arranging this.

Please be advised that if you chose a digital or cable TV provider, they will usually require you to sign up for a 12 month contract.

Telephone

The main supplier in the UK for the telephone is British Telecom commonly known as BT, but there are now many other providers examples being, Sky, Talktalk, Virgin etc.

In all properties there should be a telephone line installed to the property, but you will not be able to use the telephone until you have had it connected into your name. To have the telephone connected there may be a charge by the provider and in some cases this can take up to 14 days. The landlord should advise you of the current supplier to the telephone line. If you wish to change the telephone provider you will need to obtain permission from the Landlord in writing.

There are many telephone companies. In order to compare them we recommend that you research the market to find the best deal for you. Good starting places are comparison websites such as:

- www.uswitch.com
- www.moneysupermarket.com
- www.landlinesaver.co.uk
- www.simplifydigital.co.uk

If you find that the previous tenant has not cancelled the line in his or her name, advise your managing agent or landlord. They will then contact the previous tenant to cancel their line. Suppliers will not put the line into your name until the previous user has cancelled it.

Connection of telephone, broadband cable or any satellite connection has to be done by the person who will be paying the bills, these providers will not accept a third person authorising the connection due to data protection laws. If the broadband and telephone connections are with the same supplier you can often obtain a package deal which may reduce the price, again to confirm the pricing you will need to look on the website comparison sites.

Broadband and Internet

There are many companies that can provide the Broadband service but it is always advisable to check with the Landlord to find out who is the current provider to the property. As with the telephone line, if you wish to change the provider or indeed install broadband, you will need to obtain permission from the Landlord in writing first.

There are many companies offering broadband. In order to compare them we recommend that you research the market to find the best deal for you. Good starting places are comparison websites such as:

- www.uswitch.com
- www.broadband-finder.co.uk
- www.moneysupermarket.com
- www.comparebroadband.co.uk
- www.broadbandgenie.co.uk

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Dongles

If there are delays with the setting up of your broadband and you need access to the internet for work or social reasons immediately, it is possible that you could use a mobile broadband USB dongle.

This is a 'plug and go' device connected to a USB port on laptops that provides broadband internet access within 3G or WiMAX networks.

There are many companies who can offer the Dongles and it is best to compare the market to find the best price, contract and supplier for your needs. Some example website addresses are

- www.internetdongle.com
- www.nowmobilebroadband.co.uk
- www.broadband-expert.co.uk
- www.broadbandgenie.co.uk
- www.broadband-dongle.co.uk

You will need to check the costs with your current mobile phone supplier if you are looking to use this type of connection for your stay in the property or you can obtain a pay as you go dongle until you have the broadband/internet set up in the property.

Emergency Numbers

From January 2012 there are two emergency telephone numbers for the Police.

Call 101 to contact the police to report less urgent crime and disorder or to speak to your local officers. For example, call 101:

- if your car has been stolen
- if your property has been damaged
- if you suspect drug use or dealing in your local area
- to report a minor traffic accident
- to give the police information about crime in your area
- to speak to the police about a general enquiry

In an emergency always call 999.

You should call 999 if:

- a crime is in progress
- someone suspected of a crime is nearby
- there is danger to life
- violence is being used or threatened

If you call 101 but are reporting an emergency, you will be directed to the 999 service.

With regards to the Fire, Coastguard and Ambulance emergency services, the telephone number to use remains 999.

In case of any emergencies, such as a burst pipe or gas leak, call these numbers:

Gas Emergency 0800 111 999

Electric Emergency 0800 028 0247/0800 404 090

Water Emergency 0845 9200 888/0800 028 3399