

# Standing offers vs market offers: what's the difference?

Recently, the Victorian Government made a deal with the 'Big Three' power companies to give rebates to customers on standing offers.

So what is a standing offer and how is it different from other energy offers?

In a nutshell, it's a type of offer all energy retailers are legally obliged to make available to customers. It's usually more expensive than a market offer.

Here's the lowdown...

\$ Rates	<b>Standing offers</b>	<b>Market offers</b>
	Every retailer is legally obligated to provide a standing offer.	Rates are usually more competitive.
	Rates are usually higher than market offers.	Retailers set the terms and conditions.
	The government sets minimum terms and conditions.	The price can change at any time (depending on your contract).
	The price can't change more than once every 6 months.	Discounts and other offers may be available.
	Usually no discounts or sign-up incentives.	

You may be on a standing offer if:



**Your market offer has expired.**

If your contract expires and you don't move to a new market offer, you may be moved onto a standing offer. The process varies between different retailers.



**You've never taken up a market offer.**

If you haven't changed energy retailers since the market was deregulated, you'll still be on a standing offer.



**You've moved into a new property.**

It's becoming more common for people to use a moving services company to sort out all their connections. These companies may sign you up to a standing offer.



**You've asked for one.**

It's not common, but for some people, a standing offer is a better option for their circumstances.