

# You just bought a property... now what?

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## Compare utility options.

Alberta has an open market where consumers can choose their electricity and natural gas retailers.

Use our Cost Comparison Tool to find the best electricity and natural gas options for your home, small business, or farm.



utilitiesconsumer  
**advocate**



# Setting up utilities for your new home

**It is recommended to set up services at least two weeks prior to taking possession.**

For consumers who need services sooner, the default retailer in the area will be able to provide service until, if you choose, a competitive contract can begin. Competitive retailers that offer contracts, can take 10-90 days to set up services in your name.

**Be prepared to provide your full name, contact information, service address, and desired service start date.**

**To find your default providers enter your postal code into the search box here:**

**[ucahelps.alberta.ca/your-utilities/retailers-and-distributors](https://ucahelps.alberta.ca/your-utilities/retailers-and-distributors)**

**Set up utilities for possession date to avoid service disconnection or a large catch-up bill.**



## Electricity

The **Rate of Last Resort (RoLR)** is the default rate for electricity. Competitive retailers offer fixed, variable, and micro-generation rates.

If your property is in a rural community or farm, you may get electricity from a Rural Electrification Association. Visit [afrea.ab.ca](https://afrea.ab.ca) to find your local REA.



## Natural Gas

For natural gas the default rate reflects the market changes each month and is called the **Default Rate Tariff**. Competitive retailers offer fixed, variable, and micro-generation rates.

Rural communities may be in the service territory of a Natural Gas Co-op. Rural gas co-ops are free to set their own competitive pricing, and you do not have the option of signing a contract with other natural gas retailers unless you are a farm that meets certain criteria.



## Water

Water is a locally managed resource. Consumers are billed directly by the city/town or company.

Contact your municipality or local water provider to setup service.