

How to Read Your Electric Meter

Your electric meter is a good place to start saving energy. Reading your meter regularly can tell you what energy-saving practices work best for your home. Just follow these easy steps to learn how to read your electric meter.



First, look at the dials on your meter.

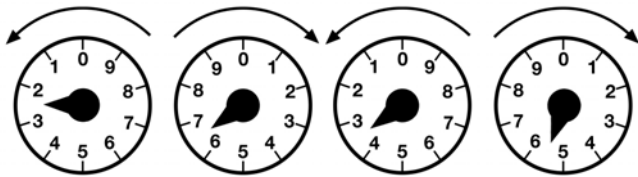
Your meter has four, five or six dials. The dials, from left to right, measure kilowatt-hours by the thousands, hundreds, tens and ones. A kilowatt-hour (kWh) is the electricity needed to burn ten 100-watt light bulbs for one hour.

Notice that the dials turn in opposite directions. These numbers are arranged on the dial depending on which way the pointer turns.

Read the dials from left to right.

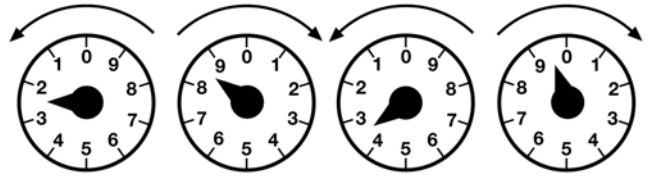
Record your readings in the same order. Jot down the numbers that the hand on each dial has just passed. When the hand of a dial is anywhere between two numbers, always record the smaller number. Whenever the hand is between 9 and 0, always record the number 9.

For example, the dials below read: 2 6 3 5:



For daily readings, read the meter at the same hour each day. For weekly readings, read the meter at the same hour on the same day each week.

See if you can determine the new reading:



If you wrote down 2-8-3-9, you're learning how to read a meter. To determine how many kilowatt-hours you have used, subtract the reading taken at the beginning of the period from the reading taken at the end of the period.

For Example:

2839	New Reading
– 2635	Earlier reading
—	
204	kilowatt-hours (kWh) used



A unit of American Electric Power