



Electric Meter Reading

Double-checking the numbers on your electric meter never hurts, especially when the benefits involve saving energy and money.

By learning how to read your electric meter, you can monitor your usage and avoid being overcharged or undercharged by the utility company.

The glass-enclosed electric meter is almost always round in shape and found outside the home. The electric meter has four round clock like dials with digits 0-9 displayed on each one and a spinning disk beneath them which, speeds up and slows down as usage increases and decreases.

You can figure out how to read your electric meter by using the following steps:

1. Locate the four dials in the row and always remember to read them from left to right. Also be aware that the pointer on the first dial of an electric meter circles clockwise, the second dial counterclockwise, the third clockwise and the fourth counterclockwise.
2. Notice the pointer in each dial and write down the number indicated by its position. When the pointer is between two numbers, the reading for

continued on other side >

Electric Meter Reading Lesson



*Reading: 4
Clockwise*



*Reading: 9
Counterclockwise*



*Reading: 1
Clockwise*



*Reading: 8
Counterclockwise*

The meter above reads 4918. According to your most recent electric bill, it previously read 4218.

The Current Reading (4918) minus the Previous Reading (4218) equals 700. So, in this example, you have used 700 kilowatt hours of power since your last electric meter reading.

> ***continued from other side***

the dial is the smaller of the two numbers.

3. If the pointer is directly on a number, that number is the reading. When you cannot tell if a pointer is directly on a number, look at the dial directly to the right. If the pointer on that dial has not passed zero, record the smaller number of the two.
4. To discover how much electric you have used since your last bill, subtract the **actual** reading indicated on your last utility bill from the reading you just took. After this first reading you will be able to keep track of your own readings and compare them with your monthly utility bill. Electricity is measured in kilowatt hours (KwH).
5. Monitor your electric usage on a daily or weekly basis and take a reading to determine the amount you use in a single day or week.

By following these steps, you will be better able to make changes in your lifestyle to keep your utility bills low and your energy savings high.

Electric meter readings are required to be taken once a year by utility companies, but are usually taken more frequently.

If you know your meter has not been read in the last 12 months, contact the company to schedule a reading date and then remember to take your own reading on that day as well.

If you discover a sizable difference when comparing the readings, this could result in an overcharge or undercharge on your next billing statement. In either case, report the discrepancy to the utility.

NOTE: Be aware that there are other components of a utility bill in addition to the basic rate which might affect the amount you are required to pay. Learning how to read your utility meters gives you a good indication of what your bill will be, rather than the precise amount you will pay.

The Office of the Ohio Consumers' Counsel (OCC), the residential utility consumer advocate, represents the interests of 4.5 million households in proceedings before state and federal regulators and in the courts. The state agency also educates consumers about electric, natural gas, telephone and water issues and resolves complaints from individuals. To receive utility information, brochures, schedule a presentation or file a utility complaint, residential consumers may call 1-877-PICKOCC (1-877-742-5622) toll free in Ohio or visit the OCC website at www.pickocc.org.

The Office of the Ohio Consumers' Counsel is an equal opportunity employer and provider of services.

For additional information from the Office of the Ohio Consumers' Counsel:

Call: 1-877-PICKOCC (1-877-742-5622) toll free or (614) 466-8574
Write: 10 West Broad Street, Suite 1800, Columbus, Ohio 43215-3485
E-mail: occ@occ.state.oh.us • Internet Address: www.pickocc.org