

How to Read a Meter

A meter may have 4 or 5 dials. Each dial is calibrated to measure in units of: ones, tens, hundreds, thousands, or ten thousands. The dial at the right records units. As soon as you begin to use electricity, all dials on the meter start to move beginning with the dial on the right. Electric meters are read in kilowatt-hours (kWh).

The reading of the meter starts with Dial 1 (right hand dial) and works to the left. The value of each dial is determined by its position. When a dial is indicating between two numbers, record the lower number. If the pointer is between two numbers, use the lower number. If the dial is on a number, then the dial to the right will indicate the right one to record. If the indicator to the right has passed the number zero, then the number the pointer is directly on is to be used. If the dial on the right is not past zero, record the lower number on the dial. Since you are reading the meter from right to left, remember to record your digits from right to left as well.

Test your skills, what is the correct reading for the meter below?



- A. 79854
- B. 70152
- C. 81240
- D. 79103

The correct reading is... 79103

Subtract your last month's reading from the current reading to get your consumption. Note: some meters have a multiplier. In this case, the reading must be multiplied by this number to derive kWh usage.

Summerside Electric reads your meter every month with estimating occurring only on an as needed basis.