

How to read a meter

Digital:

The digital meter displays numbers in four or five windows. If you have this meter, you simply record the numbers (for instance, in Figure 1, your reading would be 8304).



FIGURE 1

Dial:

Many meters are *dial-type meters* that have four or five clock-like faces numbered in clockwise and counterclockwise directions (see Figure 2.). For these meters, you need to read the dials from right to left, according to the direction of the arrow. Follow these guidelines when reading the dials:

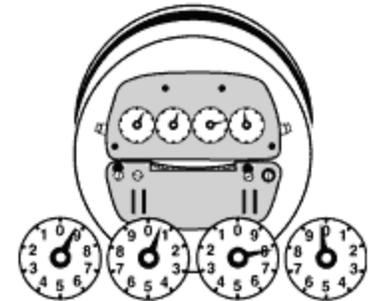


FIGURE 2

- **If the pointer is between two numbers**, record the lowest number. (Unless it is 9 and 0, and then you should record the 9.)
- **If the pointer is directly on a number**, look at the dial to the right. If the pointer is between 9 and 0, record the smaller number. If it is between 0 and 1, record the larger number.
- **To calculate usage**, read the numbers you recorded for each dial from left to right (our example reading would be 9079). To determine how many kilowatt-hours (kWh) you have used, subtract the previous reading from the current reading and multiply the difference by the meter multiplier, which can be found on your meter

Another type of dial meter used is *straight-reading dial* (see figure 3).

- They are read the same way you read your car's odometer.
- The meters measure water use in cubic feet (one cubic foot equals 7.48 gallons).
- Many water companies calculate water bills based on hundreds of cubic feet (Ccf) or per 748 gallons, the last two digits on the meter dial are dropped when the meter is read. **This meter reads: 148 Ccfs**

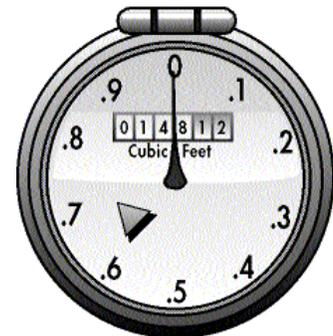


FIGURE 3