FORTIS ALBERTA

How to Read Your Electrical Meter

Your electric meter is designed to accurately measure the amount of electricity your home is using. At FortisAlberta, we understand how important accurate meter reading and billing is to our customers. The following information will help you understand how your meter works and how you can assist our meter readers to read and record your meter reading each month.

Your electric meter

The electricity you buy from FortisAlberta is measured in kilowatt-hours. This measure reflects the number of kilowatts of electricity you use in a given period of time. A kilowatt is equal to 1,000 watts. If you turn on ten 100-watt light bulbs for one hour, you will use one kilowatt-hour of electricity.

Dial Meter

A dial meter has on its face a revolving disk and a series of dials and pointers. When an electric current passes through the meter, the disk rotates at a speed that depends on the watts of electricity you're using at the time. The more electricity you use, the faster the disk moves. Each revolution of the disk measures a precise amount of electricity and the measurement is shown by the position of the pointers on the dials.

Some meters have four dials; some have five dials. Each dial has 10 numbers and a pointer and is numbered in an alternating clockwise and counter clockwise manner. The pointers follow the direction of the numbers and advance only when you are using electricity.

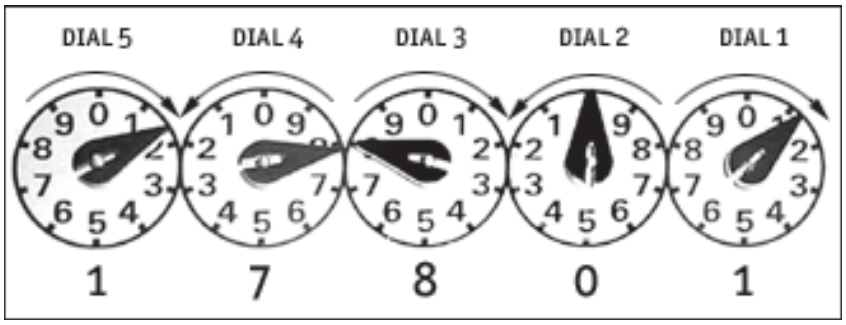
Digital Meters & Automated Metering Project Meters

A digital meter measures the amount of electricity you used and displays this usage on a liquid crystal display (LCD).

How to read your meter

Dial Meter

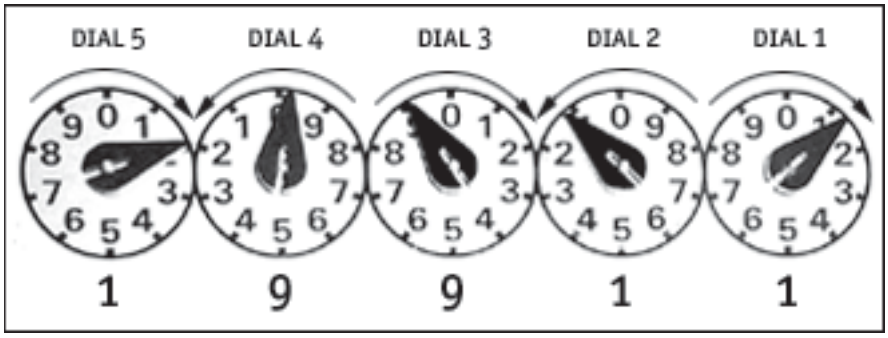
1. Stand directly in front of your meter.
2. Read and record each dial starting from the right and moving left.
3. When the dial pointer is between two numbers, record the smaller number (the number the pointer has just passed).
4. The meter is read from left to right. If the dial is pointing between 2 digits take the lower of the 2 numbers. When the pointer seems to be directly on the number, look at the dial to the right. If the pointer on the dial to the right has passed zero (0), write down the number for the left dial which the pointer seems to be on. If the pointer on the dial to the right has not passed zero, the pointer on the left dial is not yet directly on the number, so record the lower number. Here's one example:



- Dial 1 is on 1; record 1
- Dial 2 is on 0; record 0
- Dial 3 is on 8; record 8
- Dial 4 is between 7 and 8; record 7
- Dial 5 is on 2 but dial 4 hasn't made the full revolution to 0; record 1

The reading is 17801.

Now a second example:



- Dial 1 is between 1 and 2; record 1
- Dial 2 is between 1 and 2; record 1
- Dial 3 is between 0 and 9; record 9
- Dial 4 is between 0 and 9; record 9
- Dial 5 is on 2 but dial 4 hasn't made the full revolution to 0; record 1
- The reading on this meter is 19911.

Digital Meter

A digital meter records electricity usage in the same manner that a car's odometer records mileage. You read the numbers from left to right. Here is an example:

In the illustration, the March reading is 52316 kilowatt-hours.

The April reading is 53859 kilowatt-hours.

Monitoring your energy use

By reading your own meter, you can monitor the electricity you use. To determine how much electricity you have used over a certain period of time, simply subtract the previous reading from your current reading.
From our two examples above this would be:

	Dial Meter	Digital Meter
Present reading	19911	53859
Previous reading	-17801	-52316
Kilowatt-hours used	**2110**	**1543**

The difference is the kilowatt-hours you have used since your previous reading.

What is an automated meter?

Automated metering is a specialized type of digital meter that is read automatically by a remote computer system.

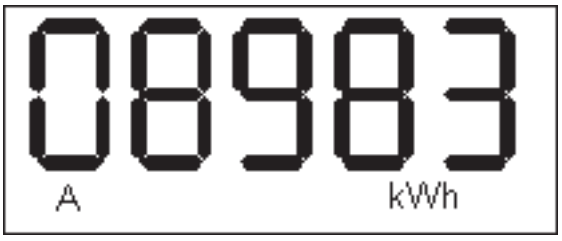
How do I read my automated meter?

An automated meter is read the same as a regular digital meter. The display on this type of digital meter changes every few seconds. Underneath the digital numbers you will see various letters. Your energy consumption reading is the value displayed when “A” and “kWh” (for kilowatt-hours) are displayed. The other values that flash on the screen are not used to calculate your bill; only the “A” consumption value is recorded. The other values are for possible future use to capture usage during different times of the day.

Digital Meter

A digital meter records electricity usage in the same manner that a car’s odometer records mileage. You read the numbers from left to right.

Reading in May - 8267



Reading in June – 8983
Consumption 8983 (June reading) – 8267 (May reading) = 716kWh