

# How to Read Your Meter



## Your Electric Meter

Start with this dial and read the meter from left to right. On a five-dial meter such as this, the first, third and fifth dials will read clockwise. The second and fourth dials will read counterclockwise. On this dial, the hand is between the 2 and the 3, so you will read it as

**2**

This dial reads counterclockwise. The hand is between the 5 and the 6 so you will read it as

**5**

This dial reads clockwise. The hand appears to be directly on the 8. But you will read it as 8 only if the hand on the dial to the right has passed 0. Since it has not, you will read this dial as

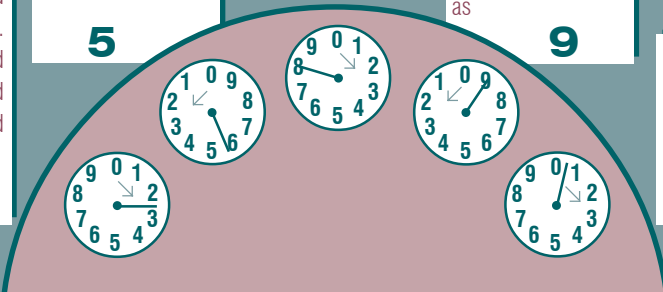
**7**

This dial reads counterclockwise. The hand is on the 9. However, you will read it as 9 only if the hand on the dial to the right has passed 0. Since it has, you will read this dial as

**9**

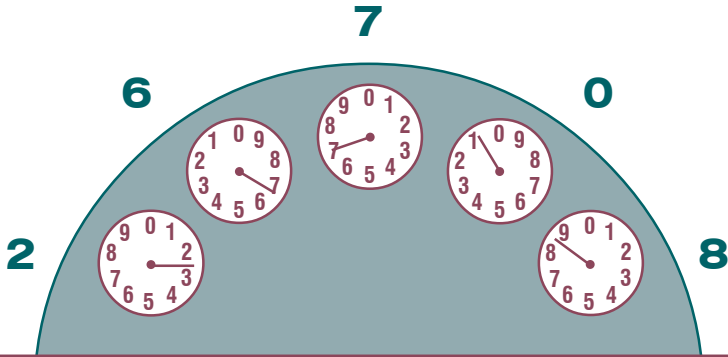
This dial reads clockwise. The hand is between the 0 and the 1 so you will read it as

**0**



The instructions above show you how to read a five-dial electric meter. In a four-dial meter, the first and third dials would read counterclockwise; the second and third would read clockwise. Regardless of which type of meter you have, you should begin your reading with the dial situated farthest to the left. Reading your electric meter daily or weekly helps you keep better track of your energy use – especially during periods of heavy consumption, such as the air conditioning season. In this way, you can avoid high-bill “surprises” at the end of the month.

## TO DETERMINE YOUR MONTHLY ELECTRIC USAGE:



Always try to read your meter at about the same time each month. Subtract your previous month's reading from your most recent one. For instance, if the dials on the front of this page represent your last month's reading and the dials above represent this month's reading, you can see that, over the course of the month, you have used 918 kWh of electricity:

$$(26708 - 25790 = 918).$$

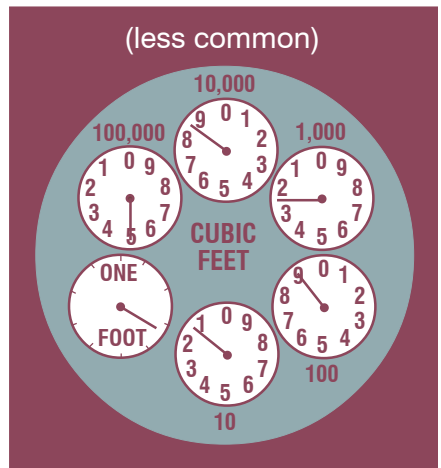
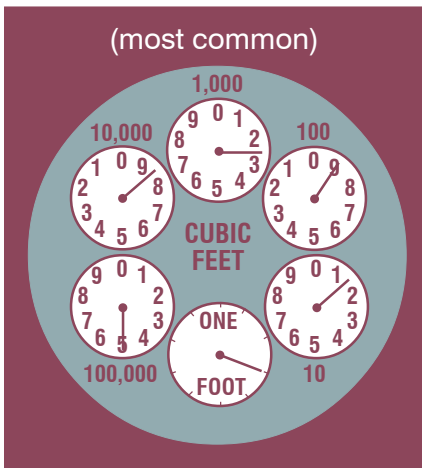
At an average residential rate of about 5¢ per kWh, your bill for the month would be about \$46 (excluding tax and customer charge).

## Your Water Meter

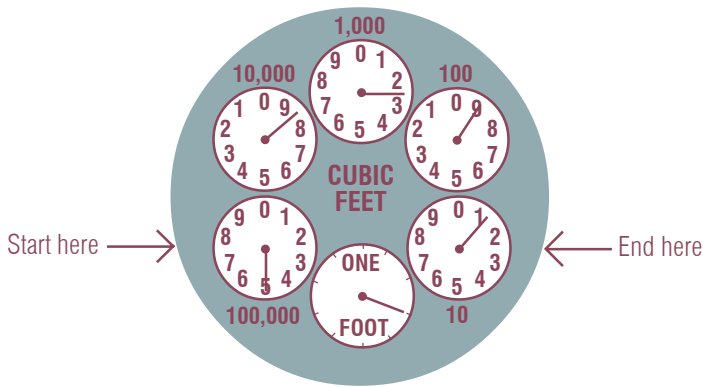
Although CWLP has changed many water meters over to the digital type, there are thousands of the old analog style meters still in service. Many of these are located inside, making it difficult for meter readers to gain access to them on a regular basis. Therefore, we often must rely on our customers to provide us with monthly readings of their water meters. If you are one of the customers who helps us by reading your own meter, or if you simply want to be able to keep close track of your usage, the following information should be helpful.

A water meter measures the number of cubic feet (cu. ft.) of water you have used. The analog type of meter consists of six dials, enabling a cumulative measurement of up to 999,999 cu. ft. (If usage were to reach 1,000,000 cubic feet, the meter dials would all simultaneously read 0 – in effect, starting the meter over again.)

There are two types of analog water meters in service. In the most common, shown on the left below, the dials measuring 100,000 cu. ft., 1,000 cu. ft. and 10 cu. ft. all read clockwise. The 10,000 cu. ft., 100 cu. ft. and One Foot dials all read counterclockwise. In the less common style of analog meter, shown below right, the dials read in the opposite direction. *(over)*



Regardless of which type of meter you have, you will read it clockwise, beginning with the 100,000 cu. ft. dial and ending at 10 cu. ft. (you can ignore the One Foot dial). Write the numbers from each dial from left to right in the order you read them, as the sample below indicates.



**4**

100,000 cu. ft.

Read this dial clockwise. The hand appears to be on the 5, but you will read it as 5 only if the hand on the next dial has passed 0. Since it has not, you will read this dial as 4.

**8**

10,000 cu. ft.

Read this dial counterclockwise. The hand is between the 8 and the 9 so you will read it as 8.

**2**

1,000 cu. ft.

Read this dial clockwise. The hand is between the 2 and the 3 so you will read it as 2.

**9**

100 cu. ft.

Read this dial counterclockwise. The hand is on the 9. Since the hand on the following dial has passed 0, you will read this as a true 9.

**1**

10 cu. ft.

Read this dial clockwise. The hand is between the 1 and the 2 so you will read it as 1.

The reading above translates to 482,910 cu. ft. of water. If you read your meter monthly, you can track your usage by subtracting your previous month's reading from your most recent one. For the first 500 cu. ft. (5 units) of water you use, you will be charged 83¢ per unit. The next 995 units (99,500 cu. ft.) will cost \$1.17/unit; any amount over 1000 units will cost 1.01¢/unit. A unit equals 748 gallons.