

Our guide to Reading Your Meters

Meters

Suppliers use meters to measure exactly how much you are consuming in your home or business and send you accurate bills. From time to time, suppliers will send someone to your home or business to take a reading, but you can also do this yourself.

Why is this important?

If you or your supplier does not read your meter then you WILL receive an estimated bill based on your previous consumption, meaning you could pay more or less than you need to. Paying less could seem like a blessing at the time, but eventually you will be hit with a bill for your consumption once a meter reading has been passed to your supplier, and the longer you proceed without an accurate reading, the bigger the shock could be.

What do I need?

In order to read your meter you need:

- Paper and a pen/pencil
- Safety equipment to access the meter (If required)
- A Key to open your meter box (Meters are usually located in an enclosure to keep them safe. A pair of pliers may also do the trick)

My Meter is different to anything I have seen before?

Do not worry, below is a list of the different types of meter you may come across and how to read them:

Standard meter – This is the most common meter type and will use a mechanical display to show you your current reading and on these meters you are only interested in the 5 numbers that are in black (reading

kWh

from left to right and ignoring any numbers in red, your supplier does not care about these numbers)

Dial Meter – If this is the meter you have in your business then it will look somewhat like a clock, however unlike a clock, the dials next to each other go round in opposite directions. Confused? Don't be, it is still fairly straight forward to read this type of meter.

Write down the numbers on the dial from left to right and if at all you have a red dial (Some will not), then just like with a standard meter, you can ignore this number as suppliers will not need it.

Now for the tricky part – If any of the needles from the dials are directly on the number then underline/circle that number. If any of the underlined/circled numbers are followed by a 9 then reduce the underlined/circled number by 1. E.g. 85119 would become 85109, as 1 is pointing directly at the needle and is followed by a 9.

Digital meter – This is probably the easiest meter to read, however you may have to press one of the buttons on the meter to get the reading that you need. Take note of the first 5 digits on the digital display and ignore the figures after the decimal point.

Economy 7 meter (ELECTRIC ONLY) An economy 7 meter has 2 rates associated with it, typically day/night OR rate1/rate2. There are 2 main types of economy 7 meter which are read in slightly different ways, but do not worry:

- The 1st type of meter has a single row of numbers and will usually show your day rate. Write this number down (labelling it appropriately, day or night) and then press the red button to show your 2nd rate, before taking this number down and labelling it appropriately.
- The 2nd type of meter has 2 displays, one above the other. Take both of these readings and label them appropriately (Usually labelled low and normal, with low being the night rate and normal the day rate).

