

Using the Kill A Watt™ Meter

These instructions are useful for larger appliances, like refrigerators or stoves.

Getting Started

The LCD shows all meter readings: voltage (Volt), current (Amp), watts (Watt), kilowatt-hours (KWH), frequency (Hz), power factor (PF), and volt amps (VA).



Step 1 - Plug it In

Plug the meter into the wall and plug the appliance into the meter.

Once the meter is plugged in, it will start to accumulate KWH and record the powered duration time (hour). The pink button is a toggle function key. When pressed, it will alternate between KWH used since being plugged in and the number of Hours the meter has been plugged in.

Step 2 - Capture the Data

Before unplugging, record the KWH and Hours from the meter. The meter resets to zero when unplugged, so it is important to record before unplugging. Display the KWH and Hours of duration by using the pink KWH/Hours button.

The time (duration) will initially be displayed as Hours:Minutes (example: 02:30 for 2 hours and 30 minutes).

Step 3 - Calculate the Results

Identify the kilowatt-hours (KWH) used for a single hour.

Example: The meter was plugged in for 02:00 hours and used .20 KWH in that time. To determine the use for a single hour, divide .20 by 2 hours. $.20 \div 2 = .10$

Identify your power rate by looking on your power bill.

Multiply the KWH used in 1 hour by the Cost per hour of use to get the Cost Per Hour.

Example: $.10 \times 8\text{¢} = .008$

Multiply the Cost Per Hour by the number of hours the appliance is used per month to get the estimated cost per month.

Example: $.008 \times 720 \text{ hours} = \5.76

The appliance used in the example would use approximately \$69.12 per year in electrical costs.

Using the Kill A Watt™ Meter - Small Appliances

Getting Started

Small appliances will use less power than a large appliance. To measure an appliance that is not plugged in for long periods of time, use Watts instead of KWH.



Step 1 - Plug it In

Plug the meter into the wall and plug the appliance into the meter.

Step 2 - Capture the Data

Press the Watts button. It is the center button on the meter. This displays the Watts as the active power.

Example: The hair dryer uses 1400 watts on “high.”

Step 3 - Estimate Hours Used

Estimate how many hours you use the appliance in a month.

Example: The hair dryer is used 10 minutes each day, about 30 days per month. ($10 \times 30 = 300$ minutes per month, or 5 hours).

Step 4 - Calculate the Results

Figure the number of watts used in a month:

Example: $1400 \text{ watts} \times 5 \text{ hours} = 7000 \text{ watt-hrs.}$

Convert to kilowatt hours (KWH) by dividing by 1000.

Example: $7000 \div 1000 = 7 \text{ KWH}$

Multiply by the rate charged by the utility (found on the bill).

Example: $7 \text{ KWH} \times 8\text{¢ per KWH} = 56\text{¢ monthly}$

The appliance used in the example would use approximately \$6.72 per year in electric costs.