

WASHINGTON



UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION
COMMISSION

Consumer Help Line
888-333-WUTC (9882)
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800-416-5289

Education and Outreach
360-664-1110

Media Line
360-664-1116

The UTC regulates the services of privately or investor owned utility and transportation companies. Our mission is to ensure that services are fairly priced, available, reliable and safe.

Regulated companies:

- Telephone
- Electricity
- Natural Gas
- Water
- Garbage
- Recycling
- Residential Movers
- Charter Buses
- Airport Shuttles
- Commercial Ferries
- Natural Gas Pipeline

General Information
360-664-1160
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Smart Meter Basics

Smart meters communicate energy consumption data from your home to your electric company using brief low-level radio frequency (RF) transmission signals. These signals are safe and comparable to the level of RF signals that people are exposed to daily. For example, similar low levels of RF energy are emitted from cell phones and other popular electronic devices. In fact, people come in contact every day with low amounts of RF energy produced from natural sources, such as the sun, the Earth and even the Earth's outer atmosphere.

Everyday devices, like those shown here, routinely produce greater RF exposure, and for longer periods, than a home's smart meter. These appliances and devices, like the cordless-phone base station or a microwave oven, are considered quite safe and are located closer to the user than the outside electric meter. Further, low level RF exposure drops rapidly with distance.

The acceptable FCC RF limits are 6.1 W/m² and 10 W/m² depending on frequency for continuous whole body exposure.

	Cellular Telephone: 7.8 W/m ² at 2" for 1-20 minutes*
	Bluetooth USB dongles: 0.042 W/m ² at 4" for < 1 minute*
	Baby Monitor: 0.029 W/m ² at 3'3" for 8 hours*
	Cordless Phone Base: 0.0052 W/m ² at 3'3" for 1-30 mins*
	Microwave Ovens: 0.0043 W/m ² at 3'3" for 1-10 mins*
	WiFi Base Station: 0.0021 W/m ² at 3'3" for 10-60 mins.*
	Smart Meter: 0.0018 W/m ² at 10' for 1-2 seconds*

*As illustrated, power density is measured in Watts per square meter (W/m²). The distances shown are for typical exposures.

In order to prevent serious health impact from exposure to RFs, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) with the advice of the U.S. Food and Drug Administrations (FDA) and other health and safety agencies, has set limits on power densities from electronic devices.

Smart Meter Basics

Smart meters, which are usually installed on the exterior of a building, such as a home, emits an occasional RF signal that is typically less than one-tenth of the FCC standard and is considered safe for everyday exposure.

To learn more about radio frequency technology and safety, visit the FCC website at: www.fcc.gov/oct/rfsafety.

For More information
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