

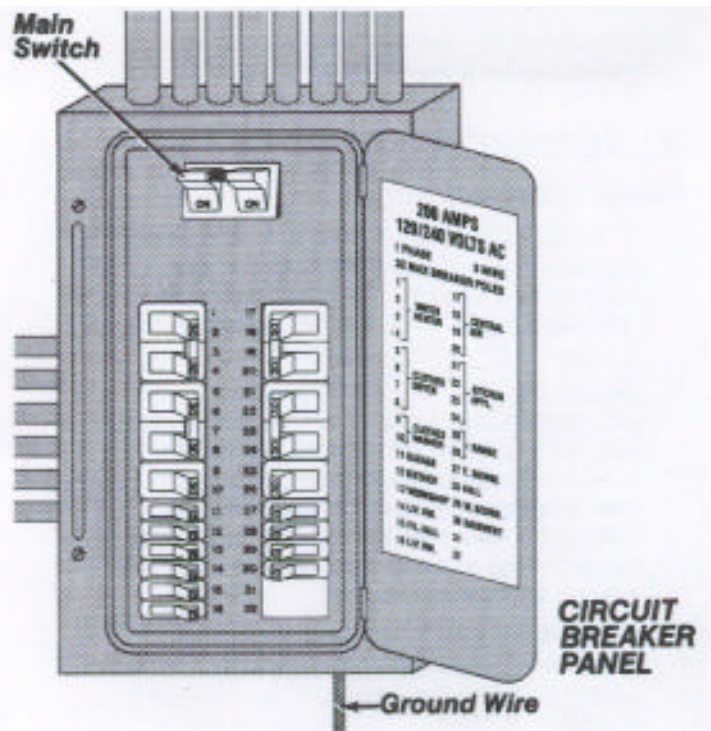
## The Electric Meter:

Electrical usage is measured in units called **watts**, which are equivalent to the number of volts times the number of amps. The utility company charges you according to the number of watts that are registered on the digital readout or dials of your **electric meter**. The meter itself, which belongs to the utility, may be located inside or outside the house.

## Main Service Panel:

The **main service panel**, which is usually located on a wall close to the incoming cables, is the central command post of your electrical system. From here power is fed to the outlets and appliances throughout the house.

Some electrical systems have a single switch, lever or handle called the **main disconnect** which can shut off all the power to the house in case of emergency, but the National Electrical Code® allows up to six disconnects to shut off all the power in a residence. It is essential that you know the type, number, location, and operation of the main disconnect(s) in the event of an emergency. A single disconnect will usually be located very close to the electric meter; multiple disconnects will nearly always be located on the panel.



## How Central Air Conditioning Works



In a central air conditioning system, liquid refrigerant travels in a closed loop between a condenser located outside the house and a coil located inside the house. As it travels through the coil, it changes from a liquid to a vapor, absorbing heat from indoor air. As it travels through the condenser, it turns back into a liquid, releasing the heat to the outdoor air. The compressor is the pump that circulates the refrigerant through the loop.

