



# Thailand electricity bills

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We remember the first time receiving our Thai electric bill and hadn't a clue where to pay it or when it was due. We figure there are many first-timers who need a little guidance, so we've dedicated this post to breaking down the anatomy of a Thai electric bill and showing you where and how to pay for it.

To keep things simple, the most important parts are marked in yellow. In case you want to know what's in the rest of the boxes, we've included that information in green.

PEA electric bills are delivered once a month and placed in the small white boxes with purple lettering that are usually mounted on buildings' outer walls or the surrounding fences. There's no formal envelope containing your Thai electric bill as there would be back home. Instead, bills are issued on small pieces of paper that are not much bigger than a grocery store receipt.

>You'll notice that the month is abbreviated down to two Thai characters and the year is the Thai year. The Thai calendar year is different than Western countries' calendar year. In this case, 2557 (generally) corresponds to the Western year of 2014. We say generally because Thailand's New Years date is not on January 1st, making it even more confusing!

By far the easiest way to pay an electric bill in Thailand is to go to your local 7-Eleven or Tesco Lotus Express, which can be found on practically every town block. Make sure to bring the original bill with you and go to any register. The cashier will scan it and ring it up separately from any other purchases you may have. There will be a small convenience fee added to the bill (we're talking only a few baht) and then the cashier will staple a receipt to the original bill for you to keep after you've paid it.

Alternatively, you can pay the electric company directly at one of their offices. The PEA has a few office locations in Chiang Mai, which are easily recognized by the buildings' white and purple exterior. If



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you pay here, there's a good chance that there will be a bit longer wait than if you were to pay at your local 7-Eleven or Tesco Lotus Express. It's simply because these offices handle more than just monthly payments. On the plus side, you won't be charged a convenience fee.

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