

Basic electrical formulas

[Links are active 2012](#)

volts x amps = watts

Same as $P = VI$... Power (watts) = V (volts) x I (amps)

Example: 4500 watt element, 240 volt water heater circuit, how many amps?

Amps = 4500 watt ÷ 240 volt = 18.75 amps

http://www.engineeringtoolbox.com/electrical-formulas-d_455.html

1000 watts = 1 kilowatt Kw

.002931 Kw needed to raise 1 pound of water 1°F

<http://waterheatertimer.org/How-many-kilowatts-needed-to-heat-water.html>

<http://waterheatertimer.org/Familychart.html>

Resistance Ohms = volts² ÷ watts

Example: test 4500 watt element 240 volt water heater

Correct ohm reading = $240^2 \div 4500 = 12.8$ ohms

Resistance Ohms = volts ÷ amps

E = IR

volts = amps x resistance (ohms)

1 horsepower = 745.6998 watts

Calculator and conversion table

<http://www.rapidtables.com/convert/power/watt-to-hp.htm>

Household wiring

Wire size

<http://waterheatertimer.org/Color-codewire.html>

Maximum 12 boxes per circuit breaker

Electrical Formulas For Finding Amperes, Horsepowers, Kilowatts and kVA

To Find	Single-Phase	Alternating Current Two-Phase ¹⁾ , Four-Wire	Three-Phase	Direct Current
Kilowatts	$\frac{I \times E \times pf}{1000}$	$\frac{I \times E \times 2 \times pf}{1000}$	$\frac{I \times E \times 1.73 \times pf}{1000}$	$\frac{I \times E}{1000}$
kVA	$\frac{I \times E}{1000}$	$\frac{I \times E \times 2}{1000}$	$\frac{I \times E \times 1.73}{1000}$	—
Horsepower (Output)	$\frac{I \times E \times \% \text{ EFF} \times pf}{746}$	$\frac{I \times E \times 2 \times \% \text{ EFF} \times pf}{746}$	$\frac{I \times E \times 1.73 \times \% \text{ EFF} \times pf}{746}$	$\frac{I \times E \times \% \text{ EFF}}{746}$
Amperes when Horsepower is Known	$\frac{HP \times 746}{E \times \% \text{ EFF} \times pf}$	$\frac{HP \times 746}{2 \times E \times \% \text{ EFF} \times pf}$	$\frac{HP \times 746}{1.73 \times E \times \% \text{ EFF} \times pf}$	$\frac{HP \times 746}{E \times \% \text{ EFF}}$
Amperes when Kilowatts is Known	$\frac{KW \times 1000}{E \times pf}$	$\frac{KW \times 1000}{2 \times E \times pf}$	$\frac{KW \times 1000}{1.73 \times E \times pf}$	$\frac{KW \times 1000}{E}$
Amperes when kVA is Known	$\frac{kVA \times 1000}{E}$	$\frac{kVA \times 1000}{2 \times E}$	$\frac{kVA \times 1000}{1.73 \times E}$	—

Average Efficiency and Power Factor Values of Motors

When the actual efficiencies and power factors of the motors to be controlled are not known, the following approximations may be used.

Efficiencies²⁾

Type	Power Factor
DC motors, 35 horsepower and less	80% to 85%
DC motors, above 35 horsepower	85% to 90%
Synchronous motors (at 100% power factor)	92% to 95%
"Apparent" Efficiencies (= Efficiency × Power Factor); Three-phase induction motors, 25 horsepower and less	70%
Three-phase induction motors above 25 horsepower	80%

Fault-Current Calculation on Low-Voltage AC Systems

In order to determine the maximum interrupting rate of the circuit breakers in a distribution system, it is necessary to calculate the current which could flow under a three-phase bolted short circuit condition. For a three-phase system the maximum available fault current at the secondary side of the transformer can be obtained by use of the formula:

$$I_{sc} = \frac{kVA \times 100}{KV \times \sqrt{3} \times \% Z}$$

where:

I_{sc} = Symmetrical RMS amperes of fault current.

kVA = Kilovolt-ampere rating of transformers.

KV = Secondary voltage in kilovolts.

% Z = Percent impedance of primary line and transformer.

1) In three-wire, two-phase circuits the current in the common conductor is 1.41 times that in either other conductor.

E = Volts I = Amperes

% EFF = Percent Efficiency pf = Power Factor

2) These figures may be decreased slightly for single-phase and two-phase induction motors.

<http://waterheatertimer.org/Figure-Volts-Amps-Watts-for-water-heater.html>