

Click to prove
you're human



StreetNew York, NY 12345 Dear Sirs, We are looking for N.Y. manufacturers... Within the address portion, the "NY" is an official Postal Symbol, and the periods are expressly left out. Within the body of the letter, the "N.Y." is an abbreviation and the periods are required. Note: All the states have state symbols, not just New York. For example: NJ, CA, NC, SC, ME, etc. (no periods in any of them). If you were compiling a table of high tide/low tide or a table of sunrise/sunset you could make a reasonable case for the position that the AM and PM are symbols within the chart. Unlike the official Postal Symbols, I have never read of any "officially" designated symbols for AM/PM. Other than that, I would use the abbreviation: a.m. and p.m. The Associated Press Stylebook, used by most newspapers in the U.S., says, for example, it's 3:30 p.m. (for example) Back in public school in the 80s in the USA, we were taught to capitalize the letters of this abbreviation for "ante meridiem", with full stops, as in "9:00 A.M." Of course, the same applies to the abbreviation "P.M." for "post meridiem." It seems that computerized automatic updates use "PM". Publication of the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), U.S. Department of Commerce.Last Updated: February 28, 2007 4:52 PM I would expect that given this proliferation that AM and PM will become accepted over time. In the U.S., The Chicago Manual of Style is the gold standard for book publishing. The 14th Ed., 14.30, says the CMS preferred style is small caps with periods while British practice is lowercase with periods. However, they go on to say that small caps without periods is an acceptable alternative, and, if your system does not have small caps, full caps is acceptable. For British usage I would consult an authoritative style book, such as New Hart's Rules from OUP. It's always best to consult an authority rather than rely on a seat-of-the-pants "that looks dumb" guide. In the U.S., The Chicago Manual of Style is the gold standard for book publishing. The 14th Ed., 14.30, says the CMS preferred style is small caps with periods while British practice is lowercase with periods. However, they go on to say that small caps without periods is an acceptable alternative, and, if your system does not have small caps, full caps is acceptable. For British usage I would consult an authoritative style book, such as New Hart's Rules from OUP. It's always best to consult an authority rather than rely on a seat-of-the-pants "that looks dumb" guide. Welcome to the forum, Borritt, and thank you for your contribution. I speak British English (BE) and would be grateful if you could say what precisely you mean by 'a seat-of-the-pants "that looks dumb" guide'. The Economist, Times, and Guardian style guides all show "am"/"pm" in lower case with no full stops. Loob Welcome to the forum, Borritt, and thank you for your contribution. I speak British English (BE) and would be grateful if you could say what precisely you mean by 'a seat-of-the-pants "that looks dumb" guide'. A poster who inquires about whether to write "8 A.M." or "8 AM" or anything else is appealing to authority. A reply that avers that something is just wrong strikes me as unhelpful. You know the saying, "Give a man a fish ..." So what is authority? Authority is whatever style guide your publisher or professor designates. If you're writing simply for yourself and don't care, then you can do anything you please. But in that case you would not be posting to a grammar site seeking guidance. So the best course is to follow one of the recognized guides. Style guides give consistency to a work, so that you treat "AM" the same on p. 39 as you did on p. 2. I think we've lost something by slavish devotion to consistency. Shaxpere could sign his name any one of a dozen ways and not be considered an ignoramus, but the fetish of the last couple of centuries has been rigid consistency. Without consistency a writer is no longer taken seriously. Of course, a guide is just that, a guide, and it must be applied with judgment. But whenever I have been challenged by an editor or writer, answering "I found it in Webster's" or "That's what Chicago recommends" carries far more weight than "I thought your way looked dumb."Cheers! A poster who inquires about whether to write "8 A.M." or "8 AM" or anything else is appealing to authority. Maybe, borritt. But he/she could equally well want to know what foreros do in "real life". A reply that avers that something is just wrong strikes me as unhelpful. Sure. But thankfully there are relatively few of those on WRF... All the best, and let me add my welcome to the forums, Loob > If there is a fixed rule then I would say that the majority of people don't know it. This thread amply illustrates that there is no fixed rule, so people can be forgiven for not knowing it!I'm fairly (52%) sure I never use a colon as divider, even with 24-hour clock - 9.25, 15.35, etc.As for am, pm, a.m., p.m., I do whatever my brain tells me at the time of writing Last edited: Mar 13, 2013 ... Space before 'pm'? Omit unnecessary ciphers? a. 10pmb. 10 pmc. 10:00pmd. 10:00 pm Looking specifically at moon glow's four options:I'm pretty sure that I don't usually leave a space before am/pm - so I'd use (a) rather than (b). I might put a space there on occasion, though. For "on the hour" times, I wouldn't normally add the '00'. Unless I was using the 24-hour clock, I would use 10:XX (or 10.XX) only when XX was greater than zero.(It's really strange to see things you posted 6 years ago coming back to haunt you!) Last edited: Mar 13, 2013