

## Water Rates Effective January 1, 2020

**Columbus Residents (Quarterly) (5/8" meter)** (This example is for 30 CCF/90 days)

Water Service Charge:

1. Multiply the days of service by \$0.283666

$(\$8.51 / 30 = \$0.283666)$  ex. 90 days  $\times 0.283666 = \$25.53$  **(A) \$25.53**

Water Commodity Charges:

Before figuring commodity charges, you must determine how many CCF can be billed at each rate step.

To do this, take 5 divided by 30  $\times$  DOS. (5 is the maximum amount of CCF per month that can be billed at the first step).  
Example:  $5 / 30 = 0.166667 \times 90 = 15$ . This means that for 90 days of service 15 CCF can be billed at the first step.

Since there are only two steps for residential, you have to determine the first step and any remaining CCF will be billed at the second step.

2. Multiply the CCF determined above by 3.040

ex.  $15 \text{ CCF} \times \$3.040 = \$45.60$  **(B) \$45.60**

3. Multiply any remaining CCF by \$3.370

ex.  $15 \text{ CCF} \times \$3.370 = \$50.55$  **(C) \$50.55**

The examples above in steps 2 and 3 are for a total of 30 CCF.

**Add A, B & C above for Total water charges.**

$25.53 + 45.60 + 50.55 = \$121.68$

## Sanitary Sewer Rates Effective January 1, 2020

Sanitary sewer rates appear on City of Columbus quarterly utility bills. Revenues from sewer charges provide operating costs for two 24-hour wastewater treatment plants, sewer maintenance services and to fund a capital improvement program. Charges for sanitary sewer usage are based on water consumption. An example of how 2020 sanitary sewer rates are calculated follows, based on an average customer usage of 30 CCF (hundred cubic feet) for a residential property located within Columbus city limits: Multiply the # of days in the quarterly billing cycle by \$0.141, for example:

$90 \text{ days} \times \$0.1457 = \$13.11$  Then multiply the CCF by \$4.500, for example:  $30 \text{ CCF} \times \$4.500 = \$135.00$

Then add the above two together:  $\$13.11 + \$135.00 = \$148.11$  for the quarter.

## Clean Rivers Surcharge (Sanitary Sewer)

**Effective in January, 2006, the sanitary sewer rate structure now includes a surcharge to support the Wet Weather Management Plan, a 40-year, \$2.5 billion capital improvement sewer program.** The new fee is for various improvements in the initiative, known as [Project Clean Rivers](#), which will reduce pollution from sewer overflows in waterways, reduce sewer backups into homes and bring the department into compliance with two consent orders with the State of Ohio. The new fee is based on a property's impervious (non-penetrable) surface, such as parking lots, roofs and driveways.

**Columbus residential properties** are assigned one ERU (equivalent residential unit) which is based on an average of 2,000 square feet of impervious surface. Columbus residential customers are billed at a daily rate of \$.1180.

Example:  $\$0.1216 \times 90 \text{ days} \times 1 \text{ ERU} = \$10.94$ .

**Direct-billed residential suburban** (non-Columbus) customers share in the costs of the sewer system and wastewater treatment plant improvements. Non-Columbus residential customers are billed at a daily rate of \$.0723.

Charges are also based on 1 ERU. Example of how this rate is calculated  $\$0.0723 \times 1 \text{ ERU} \times 90 \text{ days} = \$6.51$

**Direct-billed non-residential Columbus and suburban customers** are charged based on the established ERU's for the property. Columbus customers will bear about 90% of the cost of the improvements through this method, with the suburban customers bearing about 10%.

## Auxiliary Meters

Customers who use a large volume of water that does not enter the sanitary sewer system, such as a swimming pool, may want to consider installing an auxiliary metering system. These systems measure and charge only for the water that enters the sanitary sewer system. The systems may be installed and approved, subject to various requirements. **For information about an auxiliary meter, please call Customer Service through 311, 645-3111 or [view additional information](#).**

## An Important Note on Delinquent Sewer Charges

**Be aware that, by law\*, sewer charges become a lien against a property immediately.** This means if sewer charges remain unpaid, the past due amount will be certified with the county auditor's office, added to the property taxes. This is because unlike water or electricity service, sewer service cannot be turned off. **If you are buying a property, it is advisable that you, your realtor or your title agency check for any outstanding charges for which you may become responsible, before closing of the property.** Also, be aware that if the final reading and bill has not been processed by the time of closing and the former owner does not pay the final sewer bill, the new owner becomes responsible for it. If you believe that an error may have occurred on a sewer charge, or need to request a payment plan to pay off a high bill, please contact Customer Service by calling 311 or 645-3111. [Check for delinquent sewer charges](#) by address.

\* Pursuant to Ohio Revised Code 729.49 and Columbus City Code 1147.16.

## Stormwater Rates Effective January 1, 2020

Stormwater utility fees provide a comprehensive stormwater management program that includes capital improvements to address neighborhood flooding, maintenance of existing stormwater infrastructure and water quality protection programs to comply with Ohio EPA regulations. Only residents of Columbus are billed Columbus stormwater rates.

Stormwater rates are based on a property's contribution to stormwater runoff and are categorized by residential and non-residential land use.

Customers are charged based on the impervious (non-penetrable) area a property is known to have, such as pavement and rooftops. A billing unit, called an Equivalent Residential Unit (or ERU), is equal to 2000 square feet of impervious area. Even properties that do not have a storm sewer, or water or sanitary sewer service, receive a stormwater bill. This is because all properties with impervious surface contribute to an area's stormwater runoff.

### Stormwater charges for single-family residential properties

All single-family residential properties are calculated at 1 ERU and are billed the same flat daily rate. An example of how the 2020 residential rate is calculated:

$\$0.1591 \text{ per day} \times 90 \text{ days} = \$14.32 \times 1 \text{ ERU} = \$14.32$ . The quarterly charge varies by the number of days in the billing period.

### Stormwater charges for non-residential properties

Non-residential properties are calculated by how much impervious area the property is known to have, which was compiled from the city's Geographical Information System (GIS) and other records. A property with 10,000 square feet of impervious area would be billed at 5 ERUs (10,000 divided by 2000). For example:

$\$0.1591 \text{ per day} \times 90 \text{ days} = \$14.32 \times 5 \text{ ERUs} = \$71.60 \text{ per quarter}$ .

The stormwater fee for non-residential properties varies by the number of days in the billing period and the number of ERUs calculated for the property.

Stormwater charges are not collected from suburban (non-Columbus) water or sewer customers.

## Questions?

For questions about your sewer, water or stormwater bill, please call Customer Service by calling 311 or 645-3111.