



Utility Billing Department
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UTILITY SERVICES

EFFECTIVE JANUARY 2017

The purpose of this document is to provide you with an informative explanation of the services, billing procedures and rates for the city utility services of water, wastewater/sewer and storm.

GENERAL SERVICE & BILLING INFORMATION

All water meters are read at the beginning of each month using a hand held device that records the water consumption. From that data, the utility bills are then generated and contain the base rate and a charge for water consumption (fees vary depending on location of property and size of meter). There are additional assessments for services such as wastewater, storm water and/or miscellaneous services or fees that are provided to customers during the month (see the rate breakdown on the reverse side of this sheet).

Bills are mailed at the end of each month to the address on file and are due by the 20th of the month following the billing date printed on your statement. Payments not received by the due date are considered delinquent and are subject to a late fee. Failure to receive a bill does not release the customer from the obligation to pay promptly.

The City of Port Townsend offers a program to qualifying residents that provides a reduced rate for the water, sewer and storm services provided by the city. For a more detailed explanation of the program and requirements, please see the Port Townsend Municipal Code 13.02 on the city website at cityofpt.us.

WATER

Having a water meter essentially reserves the amount of water in our system that your meter is capable of carrying. *Whether you use it or not*, the city is required by state regulations to provide you with that capacity and your account is charged accordingly. Your total monthly water fee is comprised of two charges; the Base Rate, for the *current* month and a Usage Fee for the *prior* month's consumption. The customer may elect to have their water turned off, which would eliminate consumption charges but they will still incur charges for the monthly Base Rate fee according to their meter size.

1. The **BASE RATE CHARGE** is for reservation of capacity which means that you have reserved use of a given amount of water based on your meter size. All premises, whether occupied or vacant, shall be charged a base rate, based on meter size, for reservation of capacity.
2. The **USAGE FEE** (consumption) reflects the amount of water you have used during the *prior* month. The actual usage is rounded down to the nearest thousand gallons. Example: use of 3,268 gallons will be billed for 3,000 gallons. The balance of the 268 gallons is carried over to the following month.

WASTEWATER / SEWER

Most residential accounts have a flat rate usage charge while multi-family & commercial accounts have a base rate determined by meter size (refer to Base Rate table) in addition to a volume/usage charge. The rates shown on the reverse side have been established to pay for the service, extension and management of the City's sewer system which includes the operation of pumping, treatment and disposal of solid waste.

STORM WATER

Storm water charges, which are calculated using square foot measurements, are assessed on that area of your property designated as *impervious surface*. This means areas that are paved or otherwise do not let water pass through (i.e., your driveway and/or area covered by your house or other structures). City Ordinance allows for Storm charges even though you may not actually have storm drains on or near your property. The charges cover construction and maintenance of the entire city-wide system.

WATER – MONTHLY FEES

BASE RATE - (Residential and Commercial)			USAGE FEE - Charge is per 1,000 gallons		
Meter Size	Inside City	Outside City	Type of Account	Inside City	Outside City
5/8" to 3/4" (Low Income)	\$9.61	\$11.53	Low Income Residential	\$2.72	\$3.26
5/8" to 3/4"	\$19.22	\$23.06	Residential (including duplexes)	\$2.72	\$3.26
1"	\$48.07	\$57.68	Multi-Family (3 or more units)	\$2.11	\$2.53
1 1/2"	\$96.12	\$115.35	Commercial A Meter ≤ 2"	\$3.13	\$3.75
2"	\$153.81	\$184.57	Commercial B Meter ≥ 3"	\$4.71	\$5.65
3"	\$288.38	\$346.06	Government	\$4.08	\$4.89
4"	\$480.63	\$576.75	Irrigation Rates:		
6"	\$961.27	\$1,153.52	Winter Rate (Nov – April)	\$3.26	\$3.91
8"	\$1,538.02	\$1,845.62	Summer Rate (May – Oct)	\$5.71	\$6.85

WASTEWATER – MONTHLY FEES FOR INSIDE CITY LIMITS ONLY

BASE RATE (Multi-Family & Commercial)		USAGE FEE	
Meter Size	Inside City	Type of Account	Inside City
5/8" to 3/4" (Low Income)	N/A	Low Income Residential	\$ 16.93 (≤ 3,000 gallons water usage) \$ 20.93 (> 3,000 gallons water usage)
5/8" to 3/4"	\$ 30.00	Residential (Including Duplexes)	\$ 33.85 (≤ 3,000 gallons water usage) \$ 41.85 (≥ 4,000 gallons water usage)
1"	\$ 45.00	Multi-Family & Commercial volume charges are based on 1,000 Gallons	
1 1/2"	\$ 75.00	Multi-Family (3 or more units)	\$ 3.45
2"	\$115.00	Commercial A Meter ≤ 2"	\$ 4.65
3"	\$420.00	Commercial B Meter ≥ 3"	\$ 3.05
4"	\$470.00	Government	\$ 4.55
6"	\$700.00	Irrigation – Winter (Nov - April)	N/A
8"	\$960.00	Irrigation – Summer (May – Oct)	N/A

STORM FEE PER MONTH

≤ 3,000 square feet	\$7.25 per month.
> 3,000 square feet	Your square footage, divided by 3,000 = N; \$7.25 x N = storm charge per month.

TAXES AND SURCHARGES

Capital Surcharges:		
Water (Inside City)	\$18.00	Monthly fee (Low Income Rate is \$9.00).
Water (Outside City)	\$21.60	Monthly fee (Low Income Rate is \$10.80).
Wastewater	\$3.00	Monthly fee (Low Income Rate is \$1.50).
Stormwater	\$3.00	Monthly fee (Low Income Rate is \$1.50)
City Utility Tax	22%	Assessed monthly on utility service rates only, not surcharges.

MISCELLANEOUS

Late Fee	\$5.00	Minimum monthly penalty or 1 1/2% of the outstanding balance (whichever is greater) for payments not received by the due date.	
Meter Testing	\$60.00	If test discloses an error of 10% or greater the fee will be refunded.	
New Account Setup	\$10.00	A one-time, non-refundable fee for each new account setup.	
Returned Checks	\$15.00	For processing any non-negotiable checks.	
Turn-On/Turn-Off Fees	Inside City	Outside City	Comments
Normal Business Hours	\$20.00	\$25.00	Service call between the hours of 8:00am – 3:30pm
Business Day- After Hours	\$60.00	\$75.00	Service call between the hours of 3:30pm – 8:00am
Same Day Reconnect	\$60.00	\$75.00	Service call between the hours of 8:00am – 3:30pm. Shut off due to non-payment requires a turn-on request prior to 2:00pm for same day service
Meter Reading	\$20.00	\$30.00	Leak checks or reads outside of the normal monthly reading period