

NEW WATER/WASTEWATER RATES EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2009



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Water and Wastewater Rates

You go to the kitchen and open the faucet and the water flows like...well... water. You turn a dial and the washing machine's soapy rinse water disappears down a drain. You don't think about it, it just happens...

Collier County's Public Utilities Division, as operators of the Water-Sewer District (District), works hard to keep the 24/7/365 provision of clean, safe drinking water and sanitary sewer services as transparent to our customers as possible. You shouldn't have to think about it; that's our job. We do, however, need you to take a moment to think of how much it costs to keep the water flowing and wastewater draining away.

The District faces sizeable expense in providing life-sustaining water and wastewater treatment services. However, the District does not receive revenue from property taxes or any other financial support from Collier County Government. The District is an enterprise fund; an organization that provides goods or services to the public for a fee that makes the entity self-supporting. The total cost of operations, maintenance, and capital improvements (non-growth related) for the District are financed entirely from user fees – that bill you pay every month.

Every two years the District reviews its rates to make sure they are sufficient to cover the cost of providing services. By a Special Act of the Florida Legislature (Chapter 2003-353 Section 6), rates are to be set at the level necessary to cover the cost of providing the services, but not to make a profit.

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Regular rate adjustments are necessary to make sure the rates generate the right amount of revenue and cash flow to provide reliable and sustainable services to the community. Rates must keep up with the increasing cost of operations, including increases in electricity, raw materials like fuel and chemicals, insurance and labor, and changing regulatory requirements. Rates must also maintain bond covenants, including debt service coverage, and provide funds for emergencies.

The Collier County Board of County Commissioners approves the rates the District charges. On June 24, 2008, at its regularly scheduled meeting, the Board approved the Division's latest rate study and its recommended rates. The new rates, effective October 1, 2009 will increase the monthly bill of a typical single-family residence using 8,000 gallons of water a month by \$3.26, or about 11 cents a day.

On page four, we've provided some common water conservation practices you can easily work into your every day routine. Making water conservation a habit will help to reduce your consumption and, thereby, keep your monthly utility bill as low as possible.

If you have questions about your water or wastewater service, please call the District's Utility Billing and Customer Service Department at **239-252-2380**.

Potable Water Rates

Billed at approximate 30-day intervals, the water rates consist of two separate charges – Service Base Charge – dependent on meter size and applicable to each water account regardless of the consumption quantity.

Consumption Charge – the charge applicable to each 1,000 gallons of water that passes through the water meter.

Potable Water Service Base Charge (per month)

Individually Metered Residential, Non-residential and Multi-family Residential

Meter Size (Inches)	Existing Rate	Rate Effective October 1, 2009
5/8 or 3/4	\$16.59	\$17.17
1	\$36.62	\$37.90
1 1/4	\$46.36	\$47.98
1 1/2	\$69.81	\$72.25
2	\$109.59	\$113.42
3	\$202.57	\$209.66
4	\$335.34	\$347.08
6	\$667.26	\$690.62
8	\$1,065.56	\$1,102.86
10	\$1,928.55	\$1,996.05
12	\$2,604.77	\$2,695.94

“The new rates will increase the monthly bill of a typical single-family residence using 8,000 gallons of water a month by \$3.26, or about 11 cents a day.”

Potable Water Consumption Rates – per 1,000 gallons

Individually Metered Residential, Non-residential and Multi-family Residential

Rates per 1,000 gallons	Block 1	Block 2	Block 3	Block 4	Block 5	Block 6
Existing	\$2.28	\$3.42	\$4.55	\$5.69	\$6.82	\$9.10
Effective October 1, 2009	\$2.36	\$3.54	\$4.71	\$5.89	\$7.06	\$9.42

Potable Water Rate Structure: Consumption Blocks per 1,000 gallons

Meter Size	Block 1	Block 2	Block 3	Block 4	Block 5	Block 6
5/8” and 3/4”	First 5	6 to 10	11 to 20	21 to 30	31 to 50	Over 50
1”	First 12	13 to 25	26 to 50	51 to 75	76 to 120	Over 120
1 1/4”	First 20	21 to 40	41 to 80	81 to 120	121 to 200	Over 200
1 1/2”	First 25	26 to 50	51 to 100	101 to 150	151 to 250	Over 250
2”	First 40	41 to 80	81 to 160	161 to 240	241 to 400	Over 400
3”	First 80	81 to 160	161 to 320	321 to 480	481 to 800	Over 800
4”	First 120	121 to 250	251 to 500	501 to 800	801 to 1,200	Over 1,200
6”	First 250	251 to 500	501 to 1,000	1,001 to 1,500	1,501 to 2,500	Over 2,500
8”	First 450	451 to 900	901 to 1,800	1,801 to 2,700	2,701 to 4,500	Over 4,500
10”	First 700	701 to 1,450	1,451 to 2,900	2,901 to 4,300	4,301 to 7,000	Over 7,000
12”	First 1,075	1,076 to 2,150	2,151 to 4,300	4,301 to 6,450	6,451 to 11,000	Over 11,000

Wastewater Rates

Just like potable water rates, wastewater rates consist of two separate charges – a service base charge dependent on meter size and applicable to each account, regardless of the volume usage, and a volume charge applicable to each 1,000 gallons of water that passes through the water meter. The difference between potable water and wastewater rates is that *residential* wastewater volume charges are capped at 15,000 gallons.

Wastewater Service Base Charge (per month)

Individually Metered Residential, Non-residential and Multi-family Residential

Meter Size (Inches)	Existing Rate	Rate Effective October 1, 2009
5/8 or 3/4	\$25.35	\$26.23
1	\$57.62	\$59.64
1 1/4	\$73.88	\$76.46
1 1/2	\$111.49	\$115.39
2	\$176.18	\$182.34
3	\$327.02	\$338.46
4	\$542.27	\$561.25
6	\$1,080.66	\$1,118.49
8	\$1,726.95	\$1,787.39
10	\$3,096.20	\$3,204.57
12	\$4,589.08	\$4,749.69

When will the new rates be applied to your bill?

The new rates will be applied to the first bill where the 'Service From' date is October 1, 2009 or later.

Wastewater Volume Charge per 1,000 Gallons

Individually Metered Residential Volume Charge is Capped at 15,000 Gallons per Month

Rates per 1,000 gallons	(residential volume charge capped at 15,000 gallons)
Existing	\$3.56
Effective October 1, 2009	\$3.69

Water Restriction Surcharges

Since April 13, 2007, the Water-Sewer District has been operating under emergency water use restrictions enacted by the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) in response to drought conditions made worse by the third-driest dry season on record in South Florida.

The Collier County Water-Sewer District Uniform Billing, Operating, and Regulatory Standards Ordinance prescribe water restriction surcharges at the following rate:

Phase II – Severe: 15%
Phase III – Extreme: 30%
Phase IV – Critical: 40%

For typical single-family residences, the surcharge is applied to water consumption at and above 11,000 gallons. The charge is meant to encourage water conservation while water restrictions are in place.

The surcharge will end the month following the revocation by the SFWMD of water use restrictions.

Water Conservation Tips

Collier County is recognized as a leading force in South Florida for its commitment to water conservation and natural resource preservation through the use of alternative water supplies. In less than ten years, the county has reduced per capita water use from a high of 202 gallons per person per day in 2000 to a current consumption rate of 134 gallons per person per day. Today, two out of every three gallons of water provided to Collier County Water-Sewer District customers comes from alternative water supplies.

INDOOR WATER CONSERVATION

Install a low-flow toilet or tank water saving device and save as much as five gallons of water a day.

Install a low-flow showerhead and save as much as 86 gallons of water a day.

Install a sink aerator and save as much as eight gallons of water a day.

Turn off the faucet while you brush your teeth and save four to 10 gallons of water a day.

Fix your leaky faucet and save as much as seven gallons of water a day.

Only run your washing machine and dishwasher when they are full. You can save as much as 15 gallons per load for the dishwasher and 55 gallons per load for the washing machine.

Store drinking water in the refrigerator rather than letting the tap run every time you want a cool glass of water.

Do not use running water to thaw meat or other frozen foods. Defrost food overnight in the refrigerator or by using the defrost setting of your microwave.

OUTDOOR WATER CONSERVATION

Don't overwater your lawn. Most of the year, lawns only need one inch of water per week. Buy a rain gauge. A heavy rain can eliminate the need for watering for up to two weeks. Be sure to follow the South Florida Water Management District's current Phase II Water Use Restrictions. Irrigation is allowed two days per week. Odd numbered addresses water on Wednesday and/or Saturday. Even numbered addresses water on Thursday and/or Sunday. Remember, no watering between 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.

Protect natural landscape moisture by cutting your grass at the highest setting (up to 3 inches) on your mower. Taller grass protects the root system by helping to shade it.

Build dikes around trees and shrubs to hold water.

Rake or sweep driveways and sidewalks instead of hosing them off.

Install irrigation devices that are the most water efficient for each use. Micro and drip irrigation and soaker hoses are examples of efficient devices.

Check sprinkler systems and timing devices regularly to be sure they operate properly. Florida law requires that "...anyone who purchases and installs an automatic lawn sprinkler system MUST install a rain sensor device or switch which will override the irrigation cycle when adequate rainfall has occurred."

For more information on how you can reduce your water use, visit our web site at

www.colliergov.net

