

NEW WATER/WASTEWATER RATES EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2008

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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 will increase the monthly bill of a typical single-family residence using 8,000 gallons of water a month by \$3.14, or about 10 cents a day. The new rates are effective October 1, 2008.

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 Availability Charge – based 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 Availability Charge (per month)
Individually Metered Residential, Non-residential and Multi-family Residential

Meter Size (Inches)	Existing Rate	Rate Effective October 1, 2008
5/8 or 3/4	\$16.03	\$16.59
1	\$35.38	\$36.62
1 1/4	\$44.79	\$46.36
1 1/2	\$67.45	\$69.81
2	\$105.88	\$109.59
3	\$195.72	\$202.57
4	\$324.00	\$335.34
6	\$644.70	\$667.26
8	\$1,029.53	\$1,065.56
10	\$1,863.33	\$1,928.55
12	\$2,516.69	\$2,604.77

"The new rates will increase the monthly bill of a typical single-family residence using 8,000 gallons of water a month by \$3.14, or about 10 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	\$2.20	\$3.30	\$4.40	\$5.50	\$6.59	\$8.79
Effective October 1, 2008	\$2.28	\$3.42	\$4.55	\$5.69	\$6.82	\$9.10

Potable Water Rate Structure: Consumption Blocks in Gallons (up to or next)

Meter Size	Block 1	Block 2	Block 3	Block 4	Block 5	Block 6
5/8" and 3/4"	5,000	10,000	20,000	30,000	50,000	Over 50,000
1"	12,000	25,000	50,000	75,000	120,000	Over 120,000
1 1/2"	25,000	50,000	100,000	150,000	250,000	Over 250,000
2"	40,000	80,000	160,000	240,000	400,000	Over 400,000
3"	80,000	160,000	320,000	480,000	800,000	Over 800,000
4"	120,000	250,000	500,000	800,000	1,200,000	Over 1,200,000
6"	250,000	500,000	1,000,000	1,500,000	2,500,000	Over 2,500,000
8"	450,000	900,000	1,800,000	2,700,000	4,500,000	Over 4,500,000
10"	700,000	1,450,000	2,900,000	4,300,000	7,000,000	Over 7,000,000
12"	1,075,000	2,150,000	4,300,000	6,450,000	11,000,000	Over 11,000,000

Wastewater Rates

Just like potable water rates, wastewater rates consist of two separate charges – a service availability charge based on meter size and applicable to each account, regardless of the consumption quantity, and a consumption 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 consumption charges are capped at 15,000 gallons.

Wastewater Service Availability Charge (per month)

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

Meter Size (Inches)	Existing Rate	Rate Effective October 1, 2008
5/8 or 3/4	\$24.49	\$25.35
1	\$55.67	\$57.62
1 1/4	\$71.38	\$73.88
1 1/2	\$107.72	\$111.49
2	\$170.22	\$176.18
3	\$315.96	\$327.02
4	\$523.93	\$542.27
6	\$1,044.12	\$1,080.66
8	\$1,668.55	\$1,726.95
10	\$2,991.50	\$3,096.20
12	\$4,433.89	\$4,589.08

Be in the Know...

Go With the Flow

Visit the Water Environment Federation's web site at www.wef.org to view an interactive map that takes you on a visual journey through the wastewater treatment process.

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	\$3.44
Effective October 1, 2008	\$3.56

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 prescribes water restriction surcharges at the following rate:

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

For single-family residences, the surcharge is applied to water consumption at and above 10,000 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.