



**Questions about our rates?
Please call us at (425)787-0220.**

NEW WATER AND WASTEWATER RATES on January 1, 2017

November 9, 2016

The Board of Commissioners at Alderwood Water & Wastewater District has adopted changes to the rates charged for water and wastewater (sewer) service for years 2017, 2018, and 2019. The Board adopted these new rates at the Board Meeting on November 7. This guide is intended to explain how the changes might impact you. We'll look at water and sewer rates separately since we treat them as separate operations (even though you pay for them together on one bill).

Water Rates

The basic structure for water rates will stay the same. Single-Family, Multi-Family, and Commercial customers will be billed every 2 months (Bi-monthly). The bill amount depends on your meter size and how much water you use, which is measured in 100 cubic feet increments (1 CCF or 748 gallons). Bills include a base charge and volume charges according to three usage tiers. The base charges will **increase 2% per year** for 2017, 2018, and 2019. Volume charges will increase roughly 0.5% in 2017 and 2% annually in 2018 and 2019. To encourage more water conservation, the adopted rates include a smaller Middle Tier. If you water the grass a lot in the summer, this means you are more likely to be in the Top Tier, where the per CCF charge for water is higher.

Below is a table of new 2017 rates for water service. These rates will be effective for water service on January 1, 2017. These base and volume charges will increase by 2% annually in 2018 and 2019.

Table 1: Adopted Water Rates - 2017

Meter Size	Bi-monthly Base Charge	CCF Consumption Included in Base Charge	Water Volume Charge per CCF:		
			\$2.41 Bottom Tier	\$2.92 Middle Tier	\$3.52 Top Tier
3/4" x 5/8"	\$30.50	4	5 - 14	15 - 30	>30
3/4" x 3/4"	43.16	6	7 - 21	22 - 45	>45
1"	68.49	10	11 - 35	36 - 75	>75
1 1/2"	131.81	20	21 - 70	71 - 150	>150
2"	207.81	32	33 - 112	113 - 240	>240
3"	410.48	64	65 - 224	225 - 480	>480
4"	638.47	100	101 - 350	351 - 750	>750
6"	1,271.76	200	201 - 700	701 - 1,500	>1,500
8"	2,031.73	320	321 - 1,120	1,121 - 2,400	>2,400
10"	5,324.87	840	841 - 2,940	2,941 - 6,300	>6,300

Table 2: How Will This Affect Your Water Bill?

Below is a table that shows the increase you can expect to see on your bi-monthly (every 2 months) water bill in 2017, for the three most common meter sizes: 3/4" x 5/8", 1", and 1 1/2", at various levels of water use. Most single-family homes in the District have a 3/4" x 5/8" meter.

Meter Size	Water Use (CCF)	Water Bill Amount with EXISTING Rates	Water Bill Amount with 2017 Rates	Increase in Water Bill
3/4" x 5/8"	4	\$29.90	\$30.50	\$0.60
	10	44.30	44.96	0.66
	20	71.30	72.12	0.82
	40	129.30	136.52	7.22
	80	263.30	277.32	14.02
1"	4	\$67.15	\$68.49	\$1.34
	10	67.15	68.49	1.34
	20	91.15	92.59	1.44
	40	141.65	143.34	1.69
	80	257.65	263.14	5.49
1 1/2"	4	\$129.23	\$131.81	\$2.58
	10	129.23	131.81	2.58
	20	129.23	131.81	2.58
	40	177.23	180.01	2.78
	80	278.23	281.51	3.28

Wastewater (Sewer) Rates

The District has adopted sewer rates that represent a **3.5% increase per year** for years 2017, 2018, and 2019. **Multi-Unit** and **Single-Commercial** customers will be billed under the same rate structure, but the way we bill **Single Family Residences** will change.

Table 3: ADOPTED Sewer Rates – 2017 – Multi-Unit and Single Commercial

Bimonthly (2-Month Bill)	2017
Multiple Units - greater of:	
Per CCF	\$7.25
OR	
Bimonthly Minimum - Per Unit	\$70.38
Single Commercial - greater of:	
Per CCF	\$7.76
OR	
Bimonthly Minimum	\$113.85

Table 4: ADOPTED Sewer Rates – 2017 – Single Family Residential

Tier	Usage Level	Tier Price
Tier 1	0 - 4 CCF	\$90.00
Tier 2	5 - 18 CCF	\$117.00
Tier 3	19 CCF and greater	\$142.00

The above table of Single-Family sewer rates is a new way of billing customers. Based on feedback from our customers, the District has adopted a new sewer rate structure for Single Family customers. Under the current rate structure, all Single-Family customers with sewer service pay a bi-monthly bill that varies with water usage (as measured in CCF by your water meter). Customers pay a bi-monthly base charge of \$108, plus a volume charge of \$1.50 per CCF for every CCF over 15.

With the new rate structure (in Table 4), customers are billed one of three flat fees, based on three different usage tiers. Your bill will vary based on your water use, **and the season**. All customers are billed once every two months, or six times per year. During the two winter bill cycles (with bill dates between January 1 and April 30), customers are billed based on actual water use. During the four non-winter bill cycles (with bill dates between May 1 and December 31), customers are billed based on average winter water use. In other words, all your bi-monthly sewer bills between May 1 and December 31 will be the same.

Single Family Sewer Rates, and the Story of “Average Winter Water Use [AWWU]”

The District charges customers for water based on the water that passes through a water meter. But the meter only measures the water that flows into your house, not the wastewater (sewage) that flows away from the house. The District wants to bill customers fairly for sewer service, but we don't have a sewage meter to use as a measure of actual sewage flow. So the District has to make some assumptions about how much of the water that passes through your water meter actually enters our sewer system.

The sewer system is impacted by water that goes down a drain inside your house. During the summer, when many customers use water outdoors (for irrigating gardens, washing the car, etc.), much of the water used does not go down an indoor drain. During the winter, however, when far fewer customers use water outdoors, we can be confident that nearly all the water used by our Single Family customers goes down an indoor drain. And since the amount of water sent down the indoor drains probably doesn't change much throughout the year, the District will assume that it is fair to charge for sewer service in the summer based on average winter water use.

During the two winter bill cycles, Single Family residential customers will be charged one of the three above tier prices based on **actual use**. During the four non-winter bill cycles, Single Family customers will be charged one of the tier prices based on **average winter water use (AWWU)**. Below is an example of how a Single Family customer would be billed throughout the year under this rate structure.

Table 5 below shows an example of a full year of six sewer bills for a Single Family residence. It's important to note that the four non-winter sewer bills are locked at the same amount and do not increase as customers use more water outdoors during the summer.

Table 5: Example of 1 year of Sewer Bills for a Single Family Residence – 2017

Bill Date	Billed Water Use (CCF)	Winter or Non-Winter?	Which Tier?	Bill Amount
January 15	20	Winter	Tier 3	\$142.00
(based on Actual Use)				
March 15	4	Winter	Tier 1	\$90.00
(based on Actual Use)				
<i>Average Winter Water Use = 12 ccf, which means customer is billed in Tier 2 for remainder of year.</i>				
May 15	20	Non-Winter	Tier 2	\$117.00
(based on AWWU)				
July 15	30	Non-Winter	Tier 2	\$117.00
(based on AWWU)				
September 15	40	Non-Winter	Tier 2	\$117.00
(based on AWWU)				
November 15	25	Non-Winter	Tier 2	\$117.00
(based on AWWU)				

During the 2 Winter bill cycles, customers are billed based on **Actual Use** per Bill Cycle.

During the 4 non-Winter bill cycles, customers are billed based on **Average Winter Water Use (AWWU)** – in this case, 6 ccf (Tier 2).

Table 6: How Will This Affect Your Sewer Bill? (Single-Family)

Single Family Residential sewer customers might see the following impacts on their sewer bills in 2017:

Billed Water Use (CCF) or AWWU	Which Tier?	Sewer Bill Amount with EXISTING Rates	Sewer Bill Amount with 2017 Rates	Increase / (Decrease) in Sewer Bill
4	Tier 1	\$108.00	\$90.00	(\$18.00)
10	Tier 2	108.00	117.00	9.00
20	Tier 3	115.50	142.00	26.50
30	Tier 3	130.50	142.00	11.50
40	Tier 3	145.50	142.00	(3.50)
50	Tier 3	160.50	142.00	(18.50)
80	Tier 3	205.50	142.00	(63.50)
100	Tier 3	235.50	142.00	(93.50)

- The average 2-month Single Family water use is 14 CCF. During winter bill cycles, the average is 11 CCF.
- Tier prices will increase 3.5% annually, on January 1, 2018 and January 1, 2019.

Total Bill Impact of Changes to Water and Sewer Rates

Table 7: Total Bill Impact – Single Family Residential Customers

Single Family Residence - Bill Comparison							
Standard Meter Size + Usage (CCF):	4	10	14	20	40	60	
Water							
Current Rates	\$ 29.90	\$ 44.30	\$ 53.90	\$ 71.30	\$ 129.30	\$ 193.30	
2017 Rates	30.50	44.96	54.60	72.12	136.52	206.92	
Difference	\$ 0.60	\$ 0.66	\$ 0.70	\$ 0.82	\$ 7.22	\$ 13.62	
Sewer							
Current Rates	\$ 108.00	\$ 108.00	\$ 108.00	\$ 115.50	\$ 145.50	\$ 175.50	
2017 Rates	90.00	117.00	117.00	142.00	142.00	142.00	
Difference	\$ (18.00)	\$ 9.00	\$ 9.00	\$ 26.50	\$ (3.50)	\$ (33.50)	
Total Bill							
Current Rates	\$ 137.90	\$ 152.30	\$ 161.90	\$ 186.80	\$ 274.80	\$ 368.80	
2017 Rates	120.50	161.96	171.60	214.12	278.52	348.92	
Difference	\$ (17.40)	\$ 9.66	\$ 9.70	\$ 27.32	\$ 3.72	\$ (19.88)	

Average Water Usage per-bill 14 CCF

Note: Because Non-Winter Sewer Bills will be based on Average Winter Water Use, a customer may be billed at a different tier/price than presented here.

Table 8: Total Bill Impact – Multi-Unit Customers

Multi-Unit Building - Bimonthly Bill Comparison				
Four Examples:	#1	#2	#3	#4
	4 Units	27 Units	24 Units	97 Units
	1-inch meter	2-inch meter	2-inch meter	4-inch meter
	26 CCF	280 CCF	162 CCF	942 CCF
Water				
Current Rates	\$ 105.55	\$ 882.94	\$ 540.74	\$ 2,942.75
2017 Rates	107.05	915.17	546.61	3,084.81
Difference	\$ 1.50	\$ 32.23	\$ 5.87	\$ 142.06
Sewer				
Current Rates	\$ 272.00	\$ 1,960.00	\$ 1,632.00	\$ 6,594.00
2017 Rates	281.52	2,030.00	1,689.12	6,829.50
Difference	\$ 9.52	\$ 70.00	\$ 57.12	\$ 235.50
Total Bill				
Current Rates	\$ 377.55	\$ 2,842.94	\$ 2,172.74	\$ 9,536.75
2017 Rates	388.57	2,945.17	2,235.73	9,914.31
Difference	\$ 11.02	\$ 102.23	\$ 62.99	\$ 377.56

Note: The above are examples of bills for Multi-Unit buildings. Actual bill amounts depend on number of units, meter size, and metered water use.

Table 9: Total Bill Impact – Single Commercial Customers

Single Commercial Building - Bimonthly Bill Comparison				
Four Examples:	#1 1-inch meter 14 CCF (Shop)	#2 2-inch meter 110 CCF (Restaurant)	#3 3-inch meter 326 CCF (Manufacturing)	#4 6-inch meter 138 CCF (School)
Water				
Current Rates	\$ 76.75	\$ 390.94	\$ 1,082.23	\$ 1,246.82
2017 Rates	78.13	395.79	1,093.92	1,271.76
Difference	\$ 1.38	\$ 4.85	\$ 11.69	\$ 24.94
Sewer				
Current Rates	\$ 110.00	\$ 825.00	\$ 2,445.00	\$ 1,035.00
2017 Rates	113.85	853.60	2,529.76	1,070.88
Difference	\$ 3.85	\$ 28.60	\$ 84.76	\$ 35.88
Total Bill				
Current Rates	\$ 186.75	\$ 1,215.94	\$ 3,527.23	\$ 2,281.82
2017 Rates	191.98	1,249.39	3,623.68	2,342.64
Difference	\$ 5.23	\$ 33.45	\$ 96.45	\$ 60.82

Note: The above are examples of bills for Single Commercial buildings and business types. Actual bill amounts will depend on meter size, and metered water use.