
City Utility Rates Are Changing

In accordance with the previously published annual rate increase plan of 2018, utility bills received in February for January 2019 services will reflect a small increase in water and sewer rates.

For the average residential utility customer (5/8" meter, 5,000 gallons of usage, and a city resident) your bill will increase \$3.10 per month. For residential customers with more or less than 5,000 gallons of usage, please see the table on the next page for the amount of your increase.

What fees are increasing?

Minimum Charge: On January 1, 2019, this fee increased 5% for both water and sewer. For the average residential customer (5/8" meter) the minimum charge increased from \$14.70 to \$15.44 for water service and \$9.45 to \$9.92 for sewer service per month.*

Usage Fee: The charge for every 1000 gallons used increased 5% for both water and sewer. The water fee increased from \$5.66 to \$5.94 per 1000 gallons of use, and the sewer fee increased from \$4.20 to \$4.41 per 1000 gallons of use. Flat rate sewer charges for users located outside of the city have increased to \$52.03.*

***For metered customers outside of city limits monthly charges are 150% of inside city rates.**

Why are rate increases needed? More than 55% of Wooster's infrastructure is over 50 years old. Wooster has more than 400 miles of lines in its water distribution and sewer collection system. The costs to maintain and replace this infrastructure rise each year at a pace which far outpaces normal inflation. Since 1999, on average Wooster has spent more than 3.5 million dollars every year replacing infrastructure items. This average (3.5 million each year) only allows replacement of less than 1% of our system's assets annually.

In 2018 the city spent \$4,400,000 on water system improvements and \$750,000 on sanitary sewer system improvements.

Looking ahead, the City's Strategic Infrastructure Plan outlines more than 23 million dollars in utility projects over the next ten years. These projects are needed to provide water and sewer service to its citizens and maintain sufficient operational and capital funds for system maintenance and replacement. The City's goal is to operate the most reliable utility system that provides for the needs of our citizens and businesses at the lowest cost possible. To achieve this goal, we must continue to reinvest in our system.

Monthly increase in bills for a residential account with a 5/8" meter by water usage from 1,000 to 10,000 gallons per month.

Usage	Monthly Increase
1,000	\$1.42
2,000	\$1.63
3,000	\$2.12
4,000	\$2.61
5,000	\$3.10
6,000	\$3.59
7,000	\$4.08
8,000	\$4.57
9,000	\$5.06
10,000	\$5.55