

Water and Sewer

Efficient Irrigation

Irrigation can be the biggest offender when it comes to water usage. Taking advantage of the following techniques can help you make your lawn and landscaping irrigation as energy efficient as possible.

- Follow the mandatory odd-even date watering schedule. Residents with odd numbered addresses are asked to water only on odd calendar dates, while even numbered addresses should water on even numbered calendar dates.
- Water lawns between 11 pm and 5 am to minimize evaporation. Utilize sprinkler rain shutoff devices to avoid unnecessary watering.
- Use plenty of mulch in landscaping beds. Plant drought resistant flora, and use a larger part of your yard for landscape beds as opposed to grass. Landscape beds require far less irrigation than grass.



Efficient irrigation can protect you from increased water costs.

Tips to Reduce Charges

- Periodically test the flush and overflow valves on all your toilets. Ways to conduct these tests can be found at www.cityofnovi.org/services/utilities/tipstoreduceexcessivecharges.asp.
- When remodeling, consider 1.8 gallon low flow toilets. These use approximately half the water per flush of conventional types.
- Install aerators on water faucets and showerheads.
- Purchase water efficient washing machines and dishwashers and operate only with a full load.
- If you irrigate your lawn or garden, utilize efficient techniques and styles of landscaping and lawn maintenance.

For more information visit:

Detroit Water and Sewer Department - www.dwsd.org
American Water Works Association - www.awwa.org
Oakland County - www.oakgov.com



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**Conserving water
and reducing
your water bill**



Rate FAQs

Why don't communities get the same wholesale water rate from Detroit Water and Sewerage Department (DWSD)?

There are many issues that impact rates in different communities. DWSD rates reflect the energy costs to maintain water pumps, water mains and storage tanks needed to transport the water into our community.

Rates are affected by water usage, distance from the water treatment plant and elevation change from the plant. Because of this, costs are higher for communities with higher peak demand.

How are water and wastewater rates set?

Each community sets water and sewer rates based on the community's estimated future use and actual past usage. These rates cover the cost that the community incurs in delivering water and wastewater services in addition to the charges the community pays to Detroit Water & Sewerage (DWSD), Western Townships Utility Authority (WTUA), and/or Oakland County Drain Commission (OCDC) for water services.

Why do rates increase?

Aging water and wastewater treatment systems must be maintained or replaced to ensure reliable service. Rate increases are primarily due to the amount of new and rehabilitation projects completed under DWSD's Capital Improvement Program.

In addition to system improvements, the rates DWSD, WTUA, and OCDC charge are impacted by inflation, and the rising costs of utilities, insurance, chemicals, and high standards set by State and Federal regulatory requirements.



Infrastructure maintenance affects the rate of water and sewer costs charged to Communities served by DWSD.

Why do residents have to pay sewer charges for sprinkling their lawns?

The water meter at your house is used to determine charges for sanitary sewers with the assumption that most water used in your home will flow into the sanitary sewer. Water bills are based on the number of gallons of water used.

If separate meters were allowed, the cost per unit of sewer would have to be increased to cover the costs of the service. Communities that do allow separate metering have rates as much as 200% higher than communities that do not allow it.

How can residents save money?

Conserving water and using it wisely are the best ways to save money on your bills. Steps you can take to reduce your water usage include watering your lawn wisely (it only needs .5 to 1.5" of water per week), watering between 11 pm to 5 am, checking your home for leaks, mowing your grass when it is long (3" grass height is recommended), and collecting rainwater to water your plants.



A leaky faucet or toilet can cause a leak in your pocketbook so check for faulty fixtures.