



Frequently Asked Questions

What are the new rates?

Pierce County Monthly Sewer Rates		
Customer Type	2018	2019
Residential		
Single Family Unit	\$ 48.44	\$ 50.04
Multi Family Unit	\$ 42.32	\$ 43.72
Commercial Class 1		
Basic Service Charge	\$ 14.50	\$ 14.98
Volume Service Charge	\$ 4.03/ccf	\$ 4.17/ccf
Commercial Class 2		
Basic Service Charge	\$ 14.50	\$ 14.98
Volume Service Charge	\$ 5.38/ccf	\$ 5.56/ccf
Commercial Class 3		
Basic Service Charge	\$ 14.50	\$ 14.98
Volume Service Charge	\$ 6.80/ccf	\$ 7.03/ccf
Commercial Class 4		
Basic Service Charge	\$ 14.50	\$ 14.98
Volume Service Charge	\$ 8.16/ccf	\$ 8.43/ccf
Commercial Class 5		
Basic Service Charge	\$ 14.50	\$ 14.98
Volume Service Charge	\$ 2.66/ccf	\$ 2.75/ccf
BOD Surcharge	\$ 0.46/lb	\$ 0.48/lb
SS Surcharge	\$ 0.52/lb	\$ 0.54/lb

Cascadia Monthly Sewer Rates		
Customer Type	2018	2019
Residential		
Single Family Unit	\$ 55.00	\$ 56.82
Multi Family Unit	\$ 48.44	\$ 50.04
Commercial Class 1		
Basic Service Charge	\$ 7.40	\$ 7.64
Volume Service Charge	\$ 5.69/ccf	\$ 5.88/ccf
Commercial Class 2		
Basic Service Charge	\$ 7.40	\$ 7.64
Volume Service Charge	\$ 5.69/ccf	\$ 5.88/ccf
Commercial Class 3		
Basic Service Charge	\$ 7.40	\$ 7.64
Volume Service Charge	\$ 5.69/ccf	\$ 5.88/ccf
Commercial Class 4		
Basic Service Charge	\$ 7.40	\$ 7.64
Volume Service Charge	\$ 5.69/ccf	\$ 5.55/ccf

Additional taxes and fees above base monthly rate are not included.
 Legend: ccf=100 cubic feet
 lb=pound

What do sewer rates pay for?

Sewer rate revenues go into a fund that is split between five focus areas needed to keep the system working properly. Those include:

- M**-Maintenance activities that keep the physical system functional such as pipeline cleaning, equipment calibration and vehicle maintenance.
- O**-Operations are activities associated with running and testing the system at its greatest capacity. These include lab testing, flow monitoring, complying with permits, and making SoundGRO fertilizer from biosolids produced by wastewater treatment.
- P**-Preservation activities rehabilitate and replace existing equipment or facilities such as pumps, pipes, valves, motors, etc.
- I**-Improvements are activities that improve the overall function of the system.
- A**-Administration includes management, planning, and coordination of the Utility's operations.

When will the new rates go into effect?

Effective January 1, 2019, Pierce County will implement new rates per Ordinance 2018-74 adopted November 13, 2018.

Why are sewer rates going up now?

A rate increase is necessary to support funding for the ongoing operation and reliability of the public sewer system. Rates help cover increasing costs for preventative maintenance, regulatory requirements, and meeting growth demands. These actions protect the public's infrastructure investment, minimize future costs, and help provide predictable sewer rates in the future.

2018 Single-Family Residential Rate Comparison	
Sewer Service Provider	Monthly Rate
Seattle (Includes King County Charge)	\$ 102.10 (\$57.88+\$44.22)
Gig Harbor	\$ 75.14
Renton (Includes King County Charge)	\$ 72.98 (\$28.76+\$44.22)
Kitsap County	\$ 72.12
Auburn (Includes King County Charge)	\$ 69.11 (\$24.89+\$44.22)
Kent (Includes King County Charge)	\$ 68.16 (\$23.94+\$44.22)
Yelm	\$ 64.56
Puyallup	\$ 63.50
Bonney Lake	\$ 62.89/ \$ 95.46 GP
Kelso	\$ 59.55
Lott Alliance Member (Olympia/Lacey/Tumwater)	\$ 58.31
Tacoma	\$ 57.72
Tahaleh (Pierce Co./Cascadia WWTP)	\$ 55.00
Sumner	\$ 52.33
Pierce County	\$ 48.44
Everett	\$ 47.09
Vancouver	\$ 41.44
Federal Way (Lakehaven)	\$ 35.08

Key Facts

- Our mission is to provide customers with high quality, cost-effective sanitary sewer services in accordance with all applicable local, state, and federal permit requirements.
- Failure to maintain our system now could result in building moratoriums, further rate increases, DOE fines, or even system failure that could impact public health and safety.
- Pierce County's Sewer Division has received the Washington State Department of Ecology's (DOE) Outstanding Performance Award 16 times since 1995. This award is given to sewer systems that did not have any sewer spills during the previous year.
- DOE has alerted all western Washington treatment plants that the state will require stricter water quality standards for discharge into Puget Sound in the future. Monthly sewer rates are used in part to maintain our high standard for water quality.