

AVERAGE WINTER CONSUMPTION (AWC)

How are sewer charges determined?

The rate structure for wastewater service consists of a uniform monthly service charge for all properties, plus a quantity charge base on metered water use. For all accounts, the quantity charge is based on the average winter consumption through three billing periods during the winter months of November, December and January. If water consumption drops below the established winter sewer consumption, sewer charges also drop.

What is “average winter consumption” (AWC)?

It is the average water usage billed November through January.

Why does the city use winter water use for sewer billing?

Sewer charges are for the treatment of water that drains into the sanitary sewer system and for taking care of the sewer system. Customers' water usage may increase in the spring, summer and fall months due to outside activities, including watering lawns, filling pools or washing cars. This water usage does not go into the sanitary sewer system.

The city updates the average for these three months and it is used as a basis for sewer billing for the rest of the year. If water consumption drops below the established winter sewer consumption, sewer charges also drop and bill “straight across.”

I moved into my home after last winter, is my billing based on the previous owner's use?

Yes, however if water consumption drops below the established winter sewer consumption, sewer charges also drop and bill “straight across”.

What if I don't have the three winter months to use for my average?

If there is no billing history available to set the average winter consumption (AWC), the current water consumption is used until such history is available.

How can I reduce my sewer bill?

Keep your water usage as low as you can during the winter months. Remember that watering your lawn or shrubs or filling a pool will affect your winter water usage and ultimately your maximum sewer charge for the year. If you suspect that you have a leak, immediately repair it. Note: A separate irrigation/landscape meter is not subject to sewer charge.