How can your winter water consumption save you money the rest of the year?

Introducing Winter Averaging

Starting with your April bill, your sanitary sewer volume charges will be billed based on your winter water consumption when you typically use less water. It can save you money all year long!
Winter Averaging is a program that calculates residential sewer flow charges based on water consumption during the winter when residential customers historically use the least amount of water. Currently, billing for sewer equals water consumption, but recent enhancements in billing and metering have allowed us to make this change.

If you fix leaks and keep water usage low during the months when your average is being calculated, you can help reduce your sewer volume costs all year. We recommend waiting until after your average is calculated (April or later) to fill a pool or irrigate extensively.

Residential sewer customers automatically get to take advantage of this new program - you don’t need to call us to enroll.

We will calculate your sewer flow based on your average daily water consumption on your January, February and March statements. Staring in April and for the rest of the year, you will be billed for your actual water usage, but your maximum sewer volume charge will be based on your calculated winter average.

If you use less water than your calculated winter daily average during any month, your sewer volume charge will be based on the lower water consumption for that billing period.
1. Each year, we will look at the total volume of water you were billed for in January, February and March and compute a daily average amount.

2. Starting in April and for the rest of the year, this daily average amount will be multiplied by the number of days in each month’s billing cycle to get your sewer volume charge for the month.

As the number of days in a billing cycle can fluctuate by a few days each month, your sewer volume charges will vary slightly. Your water volume charge will still be based on your actual daily use.

As usual, a water and sewer fixed base charge for the costs associated with maintaining the distribution and collection system and providing fire protection will be on your bill.

Each winter, we will recalculate your average based on the actual amounts billed on your January, February and March statements. This new average will be used starting in April.
If you let us know about a leak during the months when we are calculating your average, Authority staff will make the appropriate adjustments to your winter average so it doesn’t impact you all year.

We always encourage customers to use water wisely and check for leaks (see some tips in this brochure). Fixing leaks saves water, and it saves you money!

What if I am a new customer?

If you do not have a consumption history during the winter averaging months, we will use 5,000 gallons a month as your average water use until your own winter average can be established.

Why use winter months for averaging?

Historically, the lowest water consumption months of the year for residential customers occur during the winter because customers are not watering their lawns, filling pools or washing cars. Therefore, the majority of water used during the winter months is actually entering the sanitary sewer system.
• Fix leaks in faucets, toilet tanks and outside spigots. To check to see if you have a toilet leak, put some food coloring in your toilet tank. The next morning, if the color shows up in the bowl without flushing, you have a leak. Toilet leaks can waste up to 200 gallons of water per day.

• In the laundry or kitchen, use full loads in your washing machine and dishwasher to maximize efficiency.

• Don’t overwater your lawn. If you water your lawn, it only needs 1 to 1.5 inches of water every week or two. Water your garden or lawn before 10 AM or after 7 PM when temperatures are cooler to minimize evaporation.

• While brushing your teeth, turn off the water and save two gallons of water.

• Taking shorter showers saves water. Shorten your shower to five minutes.

• Have a leak? Fix it and let us know right away.

You don’t need to call us to enroll in this program.

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