



Sewer User Fee Increase

May 20, 2024

Dear OWSI Sewer Customer,

Olympic Water and Sewer Inc. (OWSI) provides water and sewer service to the Port Ludlow Master Planned Resort (MPR). OWSI has been providing this service under this name since 1999 however the plant was built around 1970. As we navigate the evolving challenges of our industry, we want to inform you about necessary adjustments to our rates, aiming to sustain and enhance our service quality.

Why Adjustments Are Necessary:

- **Infrastructure Maintenance:** The corrosive nature of sewage treatment demands ongoing maintenance of our metal and concrete facilities. This is vital to prevent future disruptions and costly emergency repairs.
- **Economic Factors:** Recent economic conditions have led to increased costs for essential materials, rising inflation and fuel prices, which also affect our transportation and chemical costs.
- **Technological Upgrades:** The aging infrastructure at our wastewater treatment facility, combined with new regulatory demands for nitrogen removal, necessitates phased technological upgrades. These upgrades are designed to minimize financial impact while improving our environmental footprint.
- **Labor Market Changes:** The shortage of experienced operators in the wastewater industry is pushing wages higher. To retain our skilled workforce, we must offer competitive compensation.

Upcoming Changes:

- **User Fee Increase:** Starting August 2024, the sewer user fee will increase by 12.5%, adding \$16.02 to each bi-monthly bill. This adjustment is in line with industry standards and necessary to cover rising operational costs.
- **Connection Fee:** The sewer connection fee will be adjusted to \$17,500 effective July 1, 2024. Any connections made without prior payment will incur a \$3,500 penalty.

The following table shows the new rates compared to surrounding utilities sewer user fees. Some rates are dependent on the amount of water used. The average annual bi-monthly usage for the OWSI user group is 8280 gallons or 1107 cubic feet. We used that amount to calculate surrounding municipality’s sewer rates when they based their charges off water usage.

	Monthly	Bi-monthly
Port Angeles	\$120.28	\$240.56
Sequim	\$96.38	\$192.76
Sunland Water	\$85.92	\$171.84
Port Townsend	\$98.38	\$196.76
Kitsap County	\$98.06	\$196.12
OWSI	\$72.10	\$144.20

Even with the new rates, OWSI has strived to remain competitively priced compared to neighboring providers.

OWSI New Bi-Monthly Rate: \$144.20

OWSI Previous Bi-Monthly Rate \$ 128.18

Commercial overage charge for each cubic foot over 1200 cubic foot in a billing period has increased from \$.074 to \$.080.

Please reach out with any questions or concerns. Contact us via email at owsi@portludlowassociates.com, in writing or in person at 70 Breaker Lane, Port Ludlow, WA 98365, by phone at (360) 437-8349 or visit our website at www.ows-inc.com.

We understand that any billing increase can be inconvenient. We appreciate your understanding and continued support as we strive to maintain a reliable and efficient wastewater system.

Sincerely,

Diana Smeland

Diana Smeland
President
Olympic Water and Sewer Inc.

****** After-Hours Emergency Answering Service 1-877-826-5787 ******

Reminder: You can pay your bill online using a credit card or e-check. While service charges apply, many customers find it a convenient option. Additionally, your financial institution may also offer an online bill-pay option.

Even if you choose not to pay online, you can still set up a profile at no additional charge, to receive your bills via email and/or view your account history. Visit our website for more information.