



## Important Notice: 2026 Sewer Rate Adjustment Maintaining Your System's Reliability

June 1, 2026

Dear OWSI Sewer Customer,

Olympic Water and Sewer Inc. (OWSI) provides water and sewer service to the Port Ludlow Master Planned Resort (MPR). We are committed to providing reliable, high-quality sewer service while being careful stewards of the infrastructure that supports our community. To continue meeting operational demands and maintain system integrity, we are implementing an increase to the sewer user fee beginning June 22, 2026, which you will see on your August bill.

Like all utility operators in Washington State, we face rising costs driven by state minimum wage increases, higher Labor & Industries (L&I) premiums, and increased regulatory compliance requirements from the Washington State Department of Ecology. Material and energy costs have also climbed significantly since our last rate adjustment. This modest increase allows us to meet those obligations while continuing to deliver the dependable service our community relies on.

### Why Adjustments Are Necessary:

- **Maintaining Service Reliability:** Wastewater systems are exposed to demanding conditions that require consistent maintenance to avoid costly breakdowns and service interruptions. Our team performs regular pump station inspections, lift station preventative maintenance and rehabilitation, flow monitoring, and emergency response to keep the system running safely around the clock. OWSI consistently cleans 1/5<sup>th</sup> of the collection system annually. GIS mapping began in 2025 and is continually being updated. Daily operation and process control of the wastewater treatment plant in compliance with the Washington Dept. of Ecology. Consistent investment in this work prevents costly failures and protects the environment.
- **Cost Pressures:** Washington State's minimum wage increases, higher L&I premiums, rising fuel prices, and the cost of chemicals such as those used in wastewater treatment have all increased significantly. Regulatory reporting and compliance costs from the Department of Ecology have also grown. This adjustment is designed to cover those real and unavoidable expenses.
- **Sustaining Skilled Operations:** Retaining licensed professionals to operate and manage our systems is essential to meeting safety and compliance requirements. Retaining these skilled professionals is non-negotiable for safe, compliant system operation — and competitive compensation is essential to keeping them.

### Upcoming Changes:

- **Sewer User Fee:** The bi-monthly sewer fee will increase by 10%, or \$16.58 - bringing the new total to \$182.42. This increase helps us keep up with necessary operational costs while remaining competitively priced with other regional providers.
- **Connection Fee:** The standard connection fee will increase by 10%, from \$17,500 to \$19,250. The existing \$5,000 penalty for connections made without prior payment remains in effect.
- **Commercial Overage Charge:** The commercial overage charge for each cubic foot over 1,200 cubic feet in a billing period will increase by 10%, from \$0.092 to \$0.1012 per cubic foot.



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 8,280 gallons or 1,107 cubic feet. We used that amount to calculate surrounding municipality sewer rates when they based their charges off water usage. Even at the new rate, OWSI ranks 4th lowest among the 8 regional providers shown below.

	Monthly	Bimonthly
Sequim	\$67.80	\$135.60
Gig Harbor	\$79.81	\$159.63
Poulsbo	\$84.22	\$168.45
<b>OWSI Proposed</b>	<b>\$91.21</b>	<b>\$182.42</b>
Sunland Water	\$91.67	\$183.33
Port Angeles	\$95.96	\$191.91
Port Townsend	\$100.02	\$200.04
Kitsap County	\$109.72	\$219.44

This adjustment allows us to continue delivering the consistent, professional service you expect - without compromising system reliability or environmental standards. Our team takes great pride in operating your sewer system safely and responsibly, and we remain committed to being good stewards of both the infrastructure and the environment it protects.

Please reach out with any questions or concerns. Contact us via email at [owsi@portludlowassociates.com](mailto: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 <http://www.ows-inc.com>.

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

A reminder that you can pay your bill online by credit card or e-check. Service charges will apply but many customers have found it to be a convenient alternative. Even if you choose not to pay through this site you may, at no charge, set up a profile and view your account history. Please visit our website for information. This site also offers an option to have your bills emailed to you. Another payment option is using the bill-pay service through your bank.

Thank you for your understanding and continued support.

Sincerely,

Diana Smeland  
President  
Olympic Water and Sewer Inc.