

RESOLUTION NO. RS-2025-21

Establishment of Rates, Fees, & Charges
Department of Water Quality (FY 2026)

RECITALS

In accordance with Section 6-301 et seq. of the Code of the Public Local Laws of Washington County, Maryland, the Board of County Commissioners of Washington County, Maryland (the "Board"), may, following a public hearing, establish or modify a fee, rate, charge, levy, or assessment for the treatment, collection, or distribution of water or sewage.

The staff of the Washington County Department of Water Quality has recommended that certain charges be modified.

A public hearing was held on May 6, 2025, following due notice by advertisement of the Board's intention to modify these charges.

Any public comment received was reviewed and carefully considered.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF WASHINGTON COUNTY, MARYLAND, that the utility rates shall be as set forth in the attached Schedule of Utility Rates for FY 2026, and other fees and charges shall be as set forth in the attached Schedule of Fees & Charges for FY 2026; and

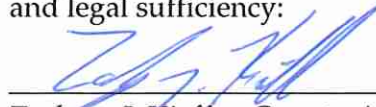
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF WASHINGTON COUNTY, MARYLAND, that all previous resolutions adopted by the Board relating to water and sewer utility rates, fees, and charges, are hereby repealed.

Adopted this 16th day of May, 2025.
Effective the 1st day of July, 2025.

ATTEST:


Dawn L. Marcus, County Clerk

Approved as to form
and legal sufficiency:


Zachary J. Kieffer, County Attorney

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF WASHINGTON COUNTY, MARYLAND

BY: 
John F. Barr, President

Mail to: Office of the County Attorney
100 W. Washington Street, Suite 1101
Hagerstown, MD 21740



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DIVISION OF
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT
WATER QUALITY | SOLID WASTE | ENGINEERING SERVICES

SCHEDULE OF RATES FOR FY2026 EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025

FULL-SERVICE SEWER & WATER RATES		
Base for 6,000 gal Per Account	Quarterly Sewer Rates	Quarterly Water Rates
Residential Full Service	\$145.90	\$121.12
Commercial I Full Service	\$152.25	\$124.50
Commercial II Full Service	\$155.33	\$166.66
Commercial III Full Service	\$155.33	N/A
Volunteer Service	\$146.90	\$121.76
Volume per 1,000 gal	Quarterly Sewer Rates	Quarterly Water Rates
Residential Full Service	\$8.93	\$14.93
Commercial I Full Service	\$9.94	\$13.17
Commercial II Full Service	\$10.70	\$11.80
Commercial III Full Service	\$10.70	N/A
Volunteer Service	\$8.98	\$15.03

CITY / COUNTY JOINT SERVICE SEWER AREA	
Residential/Commercial Collection Service	\$67.24 - per quarter - <i>All additional charges are from the City of Hagerstown</i>

MISC. FEES	
Non-Metered Sewer Charge	\$199.48 - per quarter
Non-Metered Water Charge	\$210.70 - per quarter
Sewer Wholesale (Per 1,000 gallons)	\$8.51
Deduct Meter Fee	\$30 - per quarter

BAY RESTORATION FUND FEE	
Residential	\$15 - per quarter
Commercial	The Fee will be calculated based on water usage or wastewater generated, converted into EDU's and billed at the rate of \$5 per month per EDU

DELINQUENT ACCOUNT SEWER & WATER BILLING FEES	
Maintenance fee for delinquent account	\$33 Assessed when the account is not paid within the 10-day period following the late notice.
Service Disconnect or Reconnect	\$55
Service Disconnect or Reconnect (non-business hours)	\$83



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ALLOCATION FEES	
Joint Sewer Service Connection Fee	\$3,000 <i>Sewer service connection fee for areas jointly served by the City of Hagerstown and the Wash. Co. Dept. of Water Quality. For Example, Maugansville, Fountainhead & Pangborn.</i>
Allocation Fee for Sewer Service Connection	\$8,600
Allocation Fee for Water Service Connection	\$3,200
Grinder Pump for Sewer	<i>Price is variable depending on the direct cost of the pump. This fee is in addition to the Allocation Fee for Sewer Service.</i>
Meter Fee for Water	<i>Price is variable depending on the direct cost of the meter. This fee is in addition to the Allocation Fee for Water Service.</i>
Infrastructure Management Program Fee	\$500 per Sewer EDU <i>This fee is in addition to the Allocation Fee for Sewer Service and is to help fund the cost of the emergency alarm communications system infrastructure.</i>
Cedar Springs Infrastructure Development Fee	\$1,000 per acre or per Sewer EDU, whichever is greater <i>This fee is in addition to the Allocation Fee for Sewer Service and is only for sewer connections that flows to the Cedar Springs Pump Station.</i>

ADMINISTRATIVE FEES	
Design Review Fees - Drawings	
One/two lot simplified subdivision plat	\$30
Multiple lot subdivision development plan or preliminary	\$30 (per sheet)
Multiple lot subdivision combined Preliminary/Final	\$120 (per sheet)
Multiple lot subdivision - final plat(s)	\$30 (per sheet)
Architectural/Technical	\$180 (per sheet)
Design Review Fees - Specification Water	
Water distribution	\$120 (per sheet)
Water Supply, Treatment or Storage	\$180 (per sheet)
Booster pump station	\$180 (per sheet)
Design Review Fees - Specification Sewer	
Sewer Collection - Gravity all types	\$120 (per sheet)
Sewer Collection - Pressure	\$180 (per sheet)
Sewage Pump Station	\$180 (per sheet)
Sewage Treatment Plant (all sizes)	\$240 (per sheet)
Permits	
Filing of and tracking of each NPDES, MDE and SHA Permits	\$25



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LABORATORY ANALYSIS			
SAMPLE COLLECTION		\$25 - Per Sample <i>(Specialty samples require additional charges)</i>	
ORGANIC ANALYSIS			
*FORMALDEHYDE	\$225	*PAINT FILTER TEST	\$13
TOTAL ORGANIC CARBON	\$30	*SEMI-VOLATILES (EPA 625 & EPA 525)	\$170
*TCLP, HERBICIDES	\$100	*ACID/BASE NEUTRALS (EPA 8260)	\$225
*TCLP, PESTICIDES	\$100	*PESTICIDES & PCB's (EPA 608)	\$80
*TCLP, SEMIVOLATILES	\$250	*HERBICIDES	\$125
*TCLP, VOC'S	\$120	*BTX	\$50
*VOLATILE ORGANICS (EPA 524 or EPA 624)	\$100	*MTBE	\$50
TTO's VOC, Semi Volatiles, Dioxin, Pest. and Herb.	\$645	*TPH	\$50
TRICHALOMETHANES	\$55	HALOACETIC ACIDS (HAA5)	\$90
PESTICIDE / PCBs 508	\$250	BTX OR MTBE Method 602	\$50
*DIOXIN	\$300	*GROSS BETA + GROSS ALPHA	\$80
HERBICIDES	\$125	*IGNITABILITY TEST ON SOLID	\$20
*CHLOROFORM	\$80		
INORGANIC ANALYSIS			
ACIDITY	\$15	NITRATE+NITRITE	\$16
ACID/ALKALINITY	\$25	*ODOR	\$15
ALKALINITY	\$17	OIL & GREASE	\$38
AMMONIA NITROGEN	\$16	ORTHO PHOSPHORUS	\$19
BIOCHEMICAL OXYGEN DEMAND (BOD)	\$25	PH (CORROSIVITY)	\$6
CALCIUM	\$14	SETTLABLE SOLID	\$10
CHEMICAL OXYGEN DEMAND (COD)	\$35	SULFATE	\$24
CHLORINE (FREE OR TOTAL)	\$8	SULFIDE	\$24
CHLORIDE	\$22	SULFITE	\$24
*COLOR	\$15	*SURFACTANTS	\$50
S. CONDUCTANCE	\$11	TOTAL DISSOLVED SOLIDS (TDS)	\$20
T. CO2	\$15	TOTAL KJELDAHL NITROGEN	\$22
T. CO2 & BI-CARBONATE (BY NOMOGRAPH)	\$18	TOTAL PHOSPHORUS	\$22
*CYANIDE	\$35	TOTAL SOLIDS	\$15
DISSOLVED OXYGEN	\$8	TOTAL SUSPENDED SOLIDS (TSS)	\$12
FLUORIDE	\$19	TOTAL TOXICITY (MICROTOX)	\$50
HARDNESS	\$13	TURBIDITY	\$8
*HEXAVALENT-CHROMIUM	\$25	VOLATILES SOLIDS (INCLUDING TS)	\$20
*PHENOL	\$25	POT ASH (POTASSIUM & CALCULATION)	\$30
*FLASHPOINT	\$25	TOTAL N (TKN+NO3+NO2)	\$38
ORTHO-PHOSPHOROUS	\$19	PERCENT SOLIDS	\$16
NITRATE	\$16	*Subcontracted test - price may change, as contracted	



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LABORATORY ANALYSIS FEES			
METAL ANALYSIS BY FLAME AA (Parts Per Million) & GRAPHITE FURNACE AA (Parts Per Billion)			
ALUMINUM	\$12	NICKEL (FLAA/GFAA)	\$12/\$24
*ANTIMONY	\$12/\$24	POTASSIUM (FLAA)	\$12/\$24
ARSENIC (GFAA)	\$12/\$24	SELENIUM (GFAA)	\$12/\$24
BARIUM (FLAA/GFAA)	\$12/\$24	SILICON (FLAA/GFAA)	\$12/\$24
CADMIUM (FLAA/GFAA)	\$12/\$24	SILVER (FLAA/GFAA)	\$12/\$24
CHROMIUM (FLAA/GFAA)	\$12/\$24	*TCLP, METALS	\$50
COPPER (FLAA/GFAA)	\$12	*TIN	\$12
IRON (FLAA)	\$12	*TITANIUM	\$12
LEAD (FLAA/GFAA)	\$12/\$24	*VANADIUM	\$12
MAGNESIUM (FLAA)	\$12/\$24	ZINC (FLAA/GFAA)	\$12
MANGANESE (FLAA/GFAA)	\$12/\$24	SAMPLE PREP. DISSOLVED METALS	\$10
MERCURY (COLD VAPOR)	\$24	SAMPLE PREP. FOR METAL DIGESTION	\$25
MOLYBDENUM	\$12	*Subcontracted test - price may change, as contracted	
MICROBIOLOGY			
CRYPTOSPORIDIUM / GIARDIA	\$850	SAMPLE DILUTION	\$10
E. COLI/FECAL COLIFORM (MPN, EC, MUG)	\$35	TOTAL COLIFORM/E. COLI COLILERT COUNT	\$35
HETEROTROPHIC PLATE COUNT	\$35	TOTAL COLIFORM/E. COLI - PRESENT/ABSENT	\$35
RUSH SAMPLE FEE FOR POSITIVE TEST	\$20	TOTAL COLIFORM (MPN)	\$35

WASTEWATER INDUSTRIAL PRETREATMENT PROGRAM PERMIT FEES	
Permit Application Fees	
Significant Industrial User	\$300 <i>Flows greater than 25,000 gal/day or deemed significant by MDE</i>
Non-Significant Industrial User	\$150 <i>Flows less than 25,000 gal/day</i>
Permit Maintenance Fees	
<i>Fees are based upon industrial process wastewater flow and are collected on an annual basis</i>	
Less than 1,000 gal/day	\$250
1,000 to 9,999 gal/day	\$500
10,000 to 25,000 gal/day	\$1,000
Greater than 25,000 gal/day	\$2,000

WASTEWATER SLUDGE PROCESSING FEES (Sludge Dewatering)	
Sludge less than 4% solids	\$0.07 per gal with a minimum charge for 1,000 gal
Sludge between 4% to 7% solids	\$0.07 per gal with a min charge for 1,000 gallons, plus landfill tipping fee
Sludge greater than 7%	Unable to process

CROSS CONNECTION CONTROL POLICY	
Commercial I account	\$65 annually
Commercial II account	\$65 annually



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DEFINITIONS

Allocation Fee for Sewer / Water Service Connection - A reservation for a building, residence or project to draw a prescribed amount of water from the drinking water system and/or to discharge a prescribed amount of flow to the sewer system. This fee helps offset the capital costs of new treatment facilities, water distribution lines, water tanks, sewer capacity expansion improvements, etc. The Allocation Fee for Sewer / Water Service Connections is charged on an Equivalent Dwelling Unit (EDU) basis projected for the project.

Base for 6000 gal Per Account - All Washington County full service sewer and/or drinking water customers are charged a base fee every quarter. The fee includes the cost of infrastructure to provide water and/or sewer services and the operating costs associated with providing that service. These are fixed costs to serve each customer no matter how much wastewater is produced or water drinking water is consumed. Customers are also charged a volume fee for every 1000 gallons over the 6000 gallon base.

Bay Restoration Fund / BRA Fee - Senate Bill 320 (Bay Restoration Fund) was signed into law on May 26, 2004. The Chesapeake Bay has experienced a decline in water quality due to over enrichment of nutrients (mainly phosphorus and nitrogen). Effluent from wastewater treatment plants is one of the top three major contributors of nutrients entering the Bay (urban and agricultural runoffs are the other two). The purpose of the bill is to create a dedicated fund, financed by wastewater treatment plant users, to upgrade Maryland's wastewater treatment plants with enhanced nutrient removal (ENR) technology so they are capable of achieving wastewater effluent quality of 3 mg/l total nitrogen and 0.3 mg/l total phosphorus. The signing of this bill initiated Maryland's efforts to further reduce nitrogen and phosphorus loading in the Bay by over 7.5 million pounds of nitrogen per year and over 260 thousand pounds of phosphorus per year, which represent over one-third of Maryland's commitment under the Chesapeake Bay 2000 Agreement.

Cedar Springs Infrastructure Development Fee - The Cedar Spring Pump station was funded by the general fund. This fee is applied directly to the general fund.

City / County Joint Service Sewer Area - Sewer service areas jointly served by the City of Hagerstown and the Wash. Co. Dept. of Water Quality. For Example, Maugansville, Fountainhead & Pangborn. Washington County is responsible for the sewer pipes / pumping stations and Hagerstown is responsible for the sewer treatment. The sewer flow goes to Hagerstown's treatment plant.

Commercial I - Commercial customers (2 EDU's)

Commercial II - Commercial customers (3 or more EDU's)

Deduct Meter Fee - Metered water that does not enter the sewer system and is not conveyed to the treatment plant. For example, fountain soda machines at a convenience stores. The meter is read quarterly and deducted from the sewer bill.

EDU - The Equivalent Dwelling Unit is a unit of measure used to equate flow demand to an equivalent of one single family home. An Equivalent Dwelling Unit is assumed to be equal to 200 gallons each per day of water use and sanitary sewage production.

Infrastructure Management Program Fee - This fee provides for upgrades to the wireless communications infrastructure on Washington County owned sewer systems (Emergency Alarms & Communications).

Joint Sewer Service Connection Fee - Sewer service connection fee for areas jointly served by the City of Hagerstown and the Wash. Co. Dept. of Water Quality. For Example, Maugansville, Fountainhead & Pangborn. This fee helps offset the capital costs of upgrading the sewer system and for routine/emergency maintenance.

Laboratory Analysis Fees - Washington County Dept. of Water Quality operates a state certified lab that offers drinking water & wastewater lab testing to businesses, municipalities and area residents.

Non Metered Sewer Charge - This charge is applied when the customer does not have a water meter. Sewer billing is based on metered water usage. For example, a customer that has a private well and Washington County sewer service.

Residential/Commercial Collection Service - This flat rate charge from Washington County Dept. of Water Quality is to cover the cost of routine/emergency maintenance of sewer infrastructure in the City/County Joint Service Area. All other charges are billed by the City of Hagerstown.

Residential Full Service Sewer - Washington County Dept. Water Quality provides sewer collections and treatment services.

Residential Full Service Water - Washington County Dept of Water Quality provides drinking water treatment and distribution services.

Sewer Wholesale - Washington County Dept. of Water Quality bills the customer at a wholesale rate. For example, The Town of Smithsburg and Williamsport are wholesale sewer customers.

Volume per 1000 gal - All Washington County full service sewer and/or drinking water customers are charged a volume rate per every 1000 gallons above the base of 6000 gallons. The volume charge covers the cost of sewer and/or drinking water treatment and supports the construction, operation and maintenance of the sewer and/or drinking water systems.

Volunteer Service - Water and/or sewer rates for volunteer fire dept., EMS, etc..

Wastewater Industrial Pretreatment Program Fees - Washington County. Dept. of Water Quality administers the Industrial Pretreatment permits for industrial wastewater dischargers in Washington County.

Wastewater Sludge Processing Fees - Washington County Dept. of Water Quality offers sludge dewatering services to local wastewater treatment plants. Sludge is a byproduct of the wastewater treatment process and to be safely disposed of the sludge is dewatered in a mechanical/chemical process and transported to the landfill.