

Chapter 1147 SEWER CHARGES

1147.01 - Definitions.

For the purpose of this chapter, the meaning of the following terms shall be defined in this section:

- (a) "Approved laboratory procedures" means the measurements, tests, and analyses of the characteristics of water and wastes in accordance with analytical procedures determined acceptable by Federal Guidelines as established in Title 40, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 136, or as approved by the Regional Administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.
- (b) "Billing Charge" shall mean a fixed charge to recover the costs incurred to provide service whether or not any consumption is used. These may include the costs of producing and mailing utility bills, applying payment as it is received, providing customer support and service, and other related sewer system costs.
- (c) "Commodity Charge" shall mean a sewer use charge that varies in the amount with the level of water the customer actually uses. This charge recovers the operating and maintenance costs associated with treating wastewater to clean water standards, providing the collection system to convey wastewater, and recovers the cost of system capital improvements. The charge includes an Operating and Maintenance charge, a Capital charge, Sewer Maintenance charge, and Industry Specific charge.
- (d) "Biochemical Oxygen Demand" has the same meaning as in Columbus City Codes Section 1145.02.
- (e) "Chemical Oxygen Demand" has the same meaning as in Columbus City Codes Section 1145.02.
- (f) "Contracted reserve capacity" means that portion of the unused system design capacity which has been retained by contract for future use by a user.
- (g) "Cooling water" means the clean wastewater discharged from any heat transfer system such as condensation, air conditioning, cooling or refrigeration.
- (h) "Director" means the director of public utilities, City of Columbus.
- (i) "Discharge" means the disposal of sewage, water or any liquid from any sewer user into the Columbus sewerage system.
- (j) "Domestic waste" means any discharge to the sewer system that has strength characteristics which do not exceed 250 mg/l of BOD, 450 mg/L of COD, 145 mg/L of TOC, 300 mg/l of suspended solids and 40 mg/l of TKN.
- (k) "Industrial process" means any activity where materials are received and are altered by one or more internal operations and then dispatched in the altered form.
- (l) "Industrial user" means any nongovernmental user of the Columbus sewerage system identified in the Standard Industrial Classification Manual, 1972 edition, classified in Division A, B, D, E or I, that discharges wastewater from an industrial process, and the total wastewater discharged is not primarily non-process domestic waste.
- (m) "Maintenance" means keeping the ~~treatment works~~ POTW in a state of repair and shall include expenditures necessary to maintain the capacity (capability) for which said works were designed and constructed.
- (n) "Major contributor" means any wastewater contributor identified in the Standard Industrial Classification Manual (SIC) in any of Division A, B, D, E and I that: (1) Has a discharge flow of 50,000 gallons or more per average work day (if seasonal, the average shall be computed on the period of use); or (2) Has a flow or pollutant loading greater than five percent of the design capacity of the ~~treatment works~~ POTW; or (3) Has in its wastes toxic pollutants in toxic amounts as defined in the standards issued under Section 307(a) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments of 1972; or (4) Is found by the director to have significant impact, either singly or in combination with other contributing industries, on the ~~treatment works~~ POTW or upon the quality of effluent from the ~~treatment works~~ POTW.

- (o) "Phosphorus" means total phosphorus content in wastewater as determined by approved laboratory procedures.
- (p) "Primarily non-process domestic waste" means that at least ninety (90) percent of all wastewater contributed is attributable to sanitary conveniences.
- (q) "Proportionate" means that each unit has the same relationship to the total with respect to magnitude, quantity and degree.
- (r) "Replacement" means those expenditures made for obtaining and installing equipment, accessories and/or appurtenances during the useful life of the ~~treatment works~~ POTW which are necessary to maintain the capacity and performance of the ~~treatment works~~ POTW for which they were designed and constructed.
- (s) "Sewerage charge" means the aggregate of the appropriate user charges and local capital cost charges.
- (t) "Sewerage system" means all of the facilities required to transport sewage from the premises of the source to a ~~sewage treatment facility~~ water reclamation plant and shall include the treatment and disposal facility. All such facilities of the City of Columbus shall be considered to be one such sewerage system.
- (u) "Significant user" means a user who contributes ten (10) percent or greater of the system design flow or system design for pollutant loadings.
- (v) "Standard Industrial Classification" means a coded classification of industries based upon economic activity developed by the U.S. Department of Commerce as published in the current Standard Industrial Classification Manual published by the U.S. Government Printing Office.
- (w) "Standard Strength" has the same meaning as in Columbus City Codes Section 1145.02.
- (x) "Total suspended solids (total nonfilterable) residue" has the same meaning as in Columbus City Codes Section 1145.02.
- (y) "System design capacity" means the design capacity for normal domestic wastewater as established by accepted engineering standards.
- (z) "Total organic carbon" has the same meaning as in Columbus City Codes Section 1145.02.
- (aa) "Service load" means total billed load as determined by calculating the non-extra strength billed flows times standard strength pounds plus established extra strength flow and loadings.
- (ab) "Treatment parameter" means a fundamental characteristic of sewage around which treatment is designed, such as, but not limited to flow, BOD, suspended solids and phosphorus.
- (ac) "User" means any person, lot, parcel of land, building, premises, municipal corporation or other political subdivision that discharges, causes or permits the discharge of wastewater into the city sewerage system.
- (ad) "Scavenger wastes" means liquid waste materials such as wastes from septic tanks, portable toilets, sewage holding tanks, grit waste and industrial processes which are usually collected at the source by tank truck for disposal elsewhere.
- (ae) "Industrial wastewater" has the same meaning as in Columbus City Codes Section 1145.02.
- (af) "NPDES Permit" means the conditions and limits set forth by the NPDES on the City of Columbus, division of sewerage and drainage for discharging ~~treatment~~ water reclamation plant effluent into public waters.
- (ag) "Debt service charge" means the portion of a user's bill that is used to offset the principal and interest payments on outstanding debt of the division of sewerage and drainage.
- (ah) "Operations and Maintenance (O&M)" means the organized procedure for causing a piece of equipment, a ~~treatment~~ water reclamation plant, or other facility or system to perform its intended function and to keep these units in such condition that it is able to continually and reliably perform its intended function.
- (ai) "Residential user class" means all users who discharge sewage from a structure of human occupancy.

- (aj) "Commercial user class" means all users who discharge sewage from a non-industrial business establishment.
- (ak) "Governmental user class" means all users who discharge sewage from a property owned by a local, state or federal governmental entity.
- (al) "Institutional user class" means all users who discharge sewage from a school, church or hospital.
- (am) "User charges" means the operation, maintenance and replacement cost of the division of sewerage and drainage.
- (an) "Total Kjeldahl Nitrogen" has the same meaning as in Columbus City Codes Section 1145.02.
- (ao) "Sewer service outside the city" means sewer service furnished to consumers in contract areas or sewer authorized by the Director of Public Utilities for consumers in non-contract areas.
- (ap) "Non-contract areas" means areas outside the city provided with sewer service by the city where no contract exists with a political subdivision.
- (aq) "Wet Weather Charge" - A charge based upon the Equivalent Residential Unit to recover costs of construction of projects necessary to meet the requirements of consent orders that mandate elimination of wet weather flow from Combined Sewer Overflows and Sanitary Sewer Overflows. This charge recovers debt service costs and other expense of all projects related to correcting wet weather overflows.
- (ar) "Equivalent Residential Unit" (ERU) - Each ERU is based on two thousand (2,000) square feet of impervious surface area. Residential customers are assigned one (1) ERU per residence. All other customers are charged based on measured impervious area divided by two thousand (2,000) square feet to determine an ERU equivalent. The maximum per customer charge based on calculated ERUs is one thousand (1,000).
- (as) "Eligible senior customers" means any customer who (a) is receiving service by means of a single meter to a single-family residence; (b) is personally responsible for payment of the bill as head of household; and (c) is sixty (60) years of age or older having a total income of less than ~~one hundred fifty (150)~~ two hundred (200) percent of the poverty level as published by the U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Census.
- (at) "Significant industrial user" has the same meaning as in Columbus City Codes Section 1145.02.
- (au) "POTW" or "publicly owned treatment works" means a treatment works owned by the City of Columbus as defined by Section 212 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C Section 1292). This definition includes any devices and systems used in the collection, storage, treatment, recycling and reclamation of sewage or industrial wastes of a liquid nature, including sewers, pipes and other conveyances that convey wastewater to a POTW water reclamation plant.

1147.11 - Rate schedules.

- (a) Charges Within Corporate Limits. For the purpose stated in Sections 1147.02 and 1147.12 there is hereby charged to each user situated within the corporate limits of the city, having any active sewer connection with the sewerage system of such city or otherwise discharging sewerage, industrial wastewater, water or other liquids, either directly or indirectly into the city's sewerage system, sewer charges as hereinbefore provided, and in the amount determinable as follows:
 - (1) For any such lot, parcel of land, building or premises having any connection with the city's sewerage system or otherwise discharging sanitary sewerage, industrial wastewater, water or other liquids, either directly or indirectly into the city's sewerage system, such charge shall be based upon the quantity of water used therein as the same is measured by a water meter or meters there in use, as hereinafter described, and there shall be charged:

The charges as prescribed in the rate schedule as follows:

Rate Component	Units	2024-2025		
		Standard Strength User	Standard Strength Industrial User	Extra Strength Industrial User
INSIDE CITY				
Billing Charge				
Quarterly Accounts	\$/Month	\$5.24 \$5.52	\$5.21 \$5.52	\$5.21 \$5.52
Monthly Accounts	\$/Month	\$15.60 \$16.54	\$15.60 \$16.54	\$15.60 \$16.54
Commodity Charge				
Operation & Maintenance Charge	\$/CCF	\$2.17 \$2.30	\$2.17 \$2.30	\$2.17 \$2.30
Capital Charge	\$/CCF	\$2.49 \$2.64	\$2.49 \$2.64	\$2.49 \$2.64
Sewer Maintenance Charge	\$/CCF	\$0.69 \$0.73	\$0.69 \$0.73	\$0.69 \$0.73
Industry Specific Charge	\$/CCF	\$0.00 \$0.00	\$0.42 \$0.45	\$0.42 \$0.45
Total Commodity Charge	\$/CCF	\$5.35 \$5.67	\$5.77 \$6.12	\$5.77 \$6.12
Wet Weather Charge	\$/ERU/Month	\$4.41 \$4.67	\$4.41 \$4.67	\$4.41 \$4.67
Extra Strength Surcharge				
Extra Strength BOD or COD or TOC	\$/lb			\$0.497 \$0.526
Extra Strength SS	\$/lb			\$0.310 \$0.329
Extra Strength TKN	\$/lb			\$0.486 \$0.515

- (b) Charges Outside Corporate Limits. For the purpose stated in Sections 1147.02 and 1147.12, there is hereby charged to each user situated outside the corporate limits of the city, having any active sewer connection with the sewerage system of such city or otherwise discharging sewage, industrial wastewaters, other liquids, either directly or indirectly into the city's sewerage system, sewer charges as hereinbefore provided, and in the amount determinable as follows:
- (1) For any such lot, parcel of land, building or premises having any connection with the city's sewerage system or otherwise discharging sanitary sewage, industrial wastewaters, water or other liquids, either directly or indirectly into the city's sewerage system, such charge shall be based upon the quantity of water used thereon or therein as the same is measured by a water meter or meters there in use, as hereinafter described, and there shall be charged:

The charges as prescribed in the rate schedule as follows:

Rate Component	Units	2024-2025		
		Standard Strength User	Standard Strength Industrial User	Extra Strength Industrial User
OUTSIDE CITY				
Billing Charge				
Quarterly Accounts	\$/Month	\$5.21 \$5.52	\$5.21 \$5.52	\$5.21 \$5.52
Monthly Accounts	\$/Month	\$15.60 \$16.54	\$15.60 \$16.54	\$15.60 \$16.54
Commodity Charge				
Operation & Maintenance Charge	\$/CCF	\$2.17 \$2.30	\$2.17 \$2.30	\$2.17 \$2.30
Capital Charge	\$/CCF	\$3.34 \$3.54	\$3.34 \$3.54	\$3.34 \$3.54
Sewer Maintenance Charge	\$/CCF	\$0.34 \$0.36	\$0.34 \$0.36	\$0.34 \$0.36
Industry Specific Charge	\$/CCF	\$0.00 \$0.00	\$0.42 \$0.45	\$0.42 \$0.45
Total Commodity Charge	\$/CCF	\$5.85 \$6.20	\$6.27 \$6.65	\$6.27 \$6.65
Wet Weather Charge	\$/ERU/Month	\$2.63 \$2.78	\$2.63 \$2.78	\$2.63 \$2.78
Extra Strength Surcharge				
Extra Strength BOD or COD or TOC	\$/lb			\$0.563 \$0.597
Extra Strength SS	\$/lb			\$0.350 \$0.37
Extra Strength TKN	\$/lb			\$0.52 \$0.551

- (c) In addition to the charges listed above, the following charge shall apply to the industrial user classes established in C.C. 1147.08:

Subgroup A1	\$ 19.68/Mo.
Subgroup A2	29.52/Mo.
Subgroup A3	98.40/Mo.
Subgroup A4	197.90/Mo.
Subgroup A5	393.58/Mo.
Subgroup A6	590.36/Mo.
Subgroup A7	197.90/Mo.
Subgroup A8a	197.90/Mo.
Subgroup A8b	2,459.87/Mo.
Subgroup B1	19.68/Mo.
Subgroup B2	98.40/Mo.
Subgroup B3	98.40/Mo.
Subgroup B4a	197.90/Mo.
Subgroup B4b	98.40/Mo.
Subgroup B5a	245.99/Mo.
Subgroup B5b	147.59/Mo.
Subgroup B5c	49.20/Mo.
Subgroup B6	49.20/Mo.

- (d) Septic Tanks and Scavenger Waste Haulers. Fees and charges for treatment of normal scavenger wastes shall be based on the costs of providing such services and on the expected overall average characteristics of such discharges, which shall be designated as 3,902 mg/l BOD, 17,934 mg/l S.S. and 1,301 mg/l TKN for septic tank wastes, 311 mg/l BOD, 596 mg/l S.S. and 104 mg/l TKN for sewage holding tank wastes, 7,407 mg/l BOD, 8,895 mg/l S.S. and 2,469 mg/l TKN for portable toilet wastes, and 27,142 mg/l BOD, 26,345 mg/l S.S.

and 9,047 mg/l TKN for grit waste. With prior approval of the Director (or designee), when available treatment capacity allows, high-strength trucked wastes that have total solids between thirteen and thirty (13-30) percent of which eighty to one hundred (80-100) percent are volatile solids and which originate from food packaging or processing or similar facilities may be accepted for special disposal at designated location(s) within the ~~treatment~~ water reclamation plant(s). The Director may designate characteristics on which to base charges in special situations on submission of proof that waste discharges have other than expected overall average concentrations and with provisions of positive identification procedures. Charges may be billed at monthly intervals or at the discretion of the Director, and shall be considered delinquent if not paid within thirty (30) days of billing date. Delinquency in payment shall be basis for revocation of permit.

For each one hundred (100) gallons, or portion thereof, of either truck capacity or actual measured discharge, the fee shall be as follows:

Wastehauler Rates	Per 100 Gallons
Septic Tank Waste	\$8.17 <u>\$8.73</u>
Sewage Holding Tank Waste	0.44 <u>\$0.46</u>
Portable Toilet Waste	8.06 <u>\$7.89</u>
Grease Interceptors	27.60 <u>\$26.62</u>

In addition, a service fee of five dollars and fifty cents (\$5.50) shall be charged for each load discharged into the Columbus sewerage system. Persons wishing to discharge sanitary wastes from recreational vehicle holding tanks into the Columbus sewerage system shall be charged a fee of six dollars (\$6.00) for each load discharged into the system.

1147.17 Sewerage system capacity charge.

For the purposes of this section the following terms shall be defined as follows:

- (1) "Domestic water service line " shall mean the line extending from the tap at the water main to the meter and shall include all the necessary appurtenances and shall be dedicated to solely providing domestic potable water.
- (2) "Fire suppression service line " shall mean the line extending from the tap at the water main to the meter and shall include all the necessary appurtenances and shall be dedicated to solely providing water for any necessary fire suppression system.
- (3) "Combined domestic water/fire suppression line " shall mean the line extending from the tap at the water main to the meter and shall include all the necessary appurtenances and shall provide water simultaneously to the domestic water system and the fire suppression system.

For the purposes of providing revenue to help finance and to more equitably distribute the cost of construction of necessary additions to both the sewer system and the ~~sewage treatment facilities~~ water reclamation plants, it is hereby determined and declared necessary to provide for the establishment, exaction, and regulation of a sanitary sewer-capacity charge as hereinafter determined with such charge to be in addition to any and all other fees which may be imposed with respect to said sewer system.

The funds received from the collection of such charge, as it is herein authorized, shall be deposited daily with the city treasurer who shall credit them to a special fund from which the council of the city may take appropriations for the payment of the cost and expense of the construction, operation, maintenance, management and repair of the sanitary sewerage systems, regulator chambers, storm standby tanks, pumping stations and ~~sewage treatment works~~ water reclamation plants and for the payment of the cost and expense of replacement, extensions to or the enlargement of the same and for the payment of the principal and interest on any debt incurred for the construction of such sewerage system, regulator chambers, storm standby tanks, pumping stations, and ~~sewage treatment works~~ water reclamation plants.

The Director of Public Utilities shall be and is hereby authorized and directed to exact a sanitary system-capacity charge whenever: (1) Application is made for the issuance of a sewer permit to provide sanitary sewer service to a new structure; (2) At the time an existing structure is enlarged or its use changes; and (3) When an existing structure is removed and a new structure built and reuse is made of an existing sanitary sewer service or new sanitary sewer service is constructed, wherever such property is or will be tributary, directly or indirectly, to any trunk sanitary sewer built by the city, either inside or outside the corporate limits of said city and as provided elsewhere in the Columbus City Code.

The charge so exacted shall be determined in accordance with the following:

Size of Domestic Water Service Line	Sewerage System Capacity Charges
¾"	\$ 3,044
1"	5,074
1-½"	10,147
2"	16,236
3"	32,472
4"	50,737
6"	101,475
8"	162,360
10"	233,392
12"	436,342
16"	484,197

There shall be no sewer system-capacity charge for a fire suppression system service line. The fee for a combined domestic service/fire suppression service line shall be determined by the public utilities Director.

Credit. If a domestic water service line is replaced, the sewer system capacity charge shall be reduced by the sewer system capacity rate for each domestic water service line which is replaced. Should the sum total of the credits exceed the system capacity rate, the sewer system capacity charge shall be zero (0.00). Replacement credits will be determined by current sewer system capacity rates. No credit refunds will be issued.

1147.19 Low income discount for commodity charges.

- (A) For purposes of this section, "low income residential customer" is defined as a direct residential customer of the city (whether inside the city or outside the city) having a total income of less than ~~one hundred fifty (150)~~ two hundred (200) percent of the poverty level as published by the U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Census or who is eligible for food stamp benefits, Ohio Medicaid, Low Income Home Energy Assistance (LIHEAP), Home Energy Assistance (HEAP), Ohio Works First, Social Security Disability, public housing benefits, or any other state or federal low income assistance program acceptable to the director.
- (B) All low income residential customers may receive a twenty-five (205) percent discount on the commodity portion of their sewer bill. This discount will be available to the low residential customer upon application to and approval of the department of public utilities.
- (C) The Director may adopt regulations necessary to administer and enforce the provisions of this section. Regulations promulgated, pursuant to this chapter by the Director shall be published in the City Bulletin, with copies of the regulations being available for public review at the Director's office and other locations which may be designated by the Director.

(D) Master metered properties are eligible to receive a twenty-~~five~~ (20~~5~~) percent discount on the commodity portion of their sewer bill if the property owner proves to the satisfaction of the Director that the property meets one or both of the following criteria:

- (1) eighty (80) percent or more of the rental units are occupied by participants in qualifying programs outlined in 1147.19(A); or
- (2) the property receives subsidized housing benefits from any state or federal low income assistance program acceptable to the director.

If the criteria are met, the entire building or complex will be eligible to receive the twenty-~~five~~ (20~~5~~) percent commodity rate discount. The discount shall be applied to the master meter bill. Property owners must transmit the full benefit of the discount to residents.

(E) Political subdivisions receiving water service pursuant to a wholesale master meter contract with the city are eligible to receive the low income discount if the political subdivision adopts the low income discount program as described in Section 1147.19 of the Columbus City Codes. Participating master metered suburban community customers must provide to the Department a detailed listing in an approved format of all qualifying customers and their commodity usage prior to application of the discount to the master metered account billing. The discount shall apply only to the measured commodity usage of qualifying customers within the master metered suburban community's customer accounts.