

STRAIGHT FROM THE TAP

REVISED RATES AND FEES

King County Water District 54 has reviewed and revised its rates and fees. Due to recent and future system upgrades, this increase is necessary.

These rate changes will be reflected in the bill you receive at the beginning of January 2015.

Revenue from rates goes towards providing you water, sustaining your service and replacing and improving District facilities.

What this means to you as a consumer of water is that the rate for water will remain the same at \$3.80 per hundred cubic feet in summer and \$3.50 per hundred cubic feet in winter. A hundred cubic feet is 748 gallons.

This District, like others, charges a different rate for summer usage to encourage conservation when water demand typically is at its highest.

Base rates will change. The District tried to make the increase as small as possible while still trying to cover the increasing cost of running the District.

Base rates were increased by \$1.50 per month per unit. For example, most single family residential homes base rate will increase from \$9.65 to \$11.15 per month. If you have an 18 unit condo or apartment unit your base rate will increase by \$1.50 per unit per month.

Base rates are assessed for each home or equivalent

residential unit to the District for water service. The rates are based upon your meter size and type of service. Base rates for the most frequently sought service types and meter sizes are captured in the table below. For others, contact the District.

For a typical single family residence, the increase to your water bill will be \$3.00 for a 2-month bill.

The District has not increased rates in three years. This increase will help to replenish the Capital Improvement fund for the unexpected expense of the new chlorination system which was installed last spring 2014.

OPEN COMMISSIONER POSITION AT WD 54

The Water District is managed by a Board of three Commissioners elected to serve 6 year terms.

We have recently had Commissioner Vic Pennington resign. We need to fill his position which will also be up for election at the end of 2015. This position can be temporarily filled until it is up for election in 2015. The candidate will need to register with the King County Election Board by the first half of 2015. In fact all three position are up for election in 2015.

If you or somebody you know who lives within the Water District and are interested in fulfilling one of these positions, send a letter of interest to the District office before November 21, 2014.

Currently the two Board members are John Rayback and Alli Larkin. Both have been Commissioners for some time now. John Rayback was born in the District and is currently a semi-retired attorney, he has been a Commissioner for 14 years. Alli Larkin is a beach naturalist and is very passionate about keeping the water free of chlorine and fluoride, Alli has been a Commissioner for 11 years.

UNCHANGED WATER USAGE RATES*

<u>Time of Year</u>	<u>Months</u>	<u>Rate / ccf</u>
Winter	November - April	3.50
Summer	May - October	3.80

NEW BASE (CONNECTION) RATES

<u>Service Type</u>	<u>Criteria</u>	<u>Rate / month</u>
Residential, Single Family	3/4 " meter and under	11.15
	1" meter	11.65
Residential, Multi-Family	Each residence unit served (ERU)	11.15
Non-Residential	3/4" meter and under	30.15
	1"	36.15
	1 1/2"	51.15
	2"	90.15

*For a complete list, contact the District office.

CHLORINE IN YOUR WATER

All Publicly owned Water systems must test their water regularly with a wide variety of testing, done every few years, these tests consist of testing for gasoline, fertilizers radioactive materials as well as a number of other chemicals and contaminants.

Monthly all publicly owned systems must test for coliform bacteria. Coliform is naturally present in the air and environment. The reason we test for coliform bacteria is that these test are inexpensive. If coliform is found in the sample, additional testing is done in order to determine if fecal matter or e-coli is in the sample.

King County Water District No. 54 takes 6 routine samples every month. This is based on our population within the District. In September of 2013 one of the 6 routine samples came back positive for fecal coliform. Once one of the samples test positive for coliform, additional samples must be taken and one of these additional samples came back positive for coliform, negative for fecal coliform.

With those results the system needs to add chlorine to the water, flush the system and re-test, once the tests are clear or negative for coliform the public is

notified and the water is then safe to drink.

We have had to work with the Department of Health (DOH) to insure that the system is safe and testing is properly done, to ensure that this doesn't happen in the future. In addition we have been working on making improvements to the system such as installing permanent water test stations. We will also be installing a video camera security system at the shop.

The District has installed a permanent chlorination system. The reason we installed the chlorination system was DOH

required that we design and chlorinate until the system made numerous improvements, these improvements have taken over a year to install and are still not 100% complete.

Once we have completed or at least become satisfied that we can present our report to DOH then the Board of Commissioners will need to make a decision whether to remain chlorinated or not.

The customers within the system overwhelmingly prefer non-chlorinated water. We are hoping to present our report to DOH before the end of the year.

CROSS CONNECTION

As mandated by the State of Washington, water purveyors have the primary responsibility to prevent contamination of the public water system through cross connection in compliance with WAC 248-54-820. Cross connection control is the installation of an approved assembly at the public water source that prevents the flow of foreign liquids, gases, or other possible contaminating substances into the distribution system of the public water supply.

IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE CUSTOMER OR OWNER to prevent pollutants and contaminants in the building from entering the public potable water system. It is required that an approved backflow prevention assembly be installed at each required connection at the customer's or owner's expense.

BACKFLOW PREVENTION ASSEMBLIES are required in the following situations:

When it is probable that a health hazard may be created.

When toxic substances in tanks, pipelines systems or their vessels are connected to the water supply.

When an irrigation system and/or booster pumps are installed.

When deemed necessary by the DOH or the water purveyor.

ANNUAL TESTING is required annually or more frequently where successive inspections indicate repeated failures. The repair and testing of such assemblies must be performed by certified backflow tester and the appropriate certification forwarded to the Water District.

LEAKS AROUND THE HOUSE

Leaky toilets, indoor faucets, and outdoor faucets around your home could cost you up to \$200 a year on your water bill, and waste 10,000 gallons of water. Finding and fixing leaks is an easy way to save money and water.

The Saving Water Partnership, has created some excellent videos with step by step instructions on how to identify and repair leaks. The videos are available at www.savingwater.org and have tips for the following problems:

Toilet Leaks- Toilet leaks are sneaky. Many toilet leaks are silent and can occur without you knowing, but fixing them is pretty simple.

Indoor faucets- Indoor faucet leaks are one of the most common leaks and one of the easiest to fix.

Outdoor faucets- A leaky outdoor faucet can be easy to miss-out of sight, out of mind. But even a small leak can quickly turn into a big bill, so make sure you fix it immediately.

Use your water meter to find a leak- Find out how your water meter can help you locate a leak at your home with easy step by step instructions.

Protect outdoor spigots from freezing- When cold weather strikes, outdoor water spigots can freeze and burst, leaving you with unexpected repair bill. Learn how to protect your outdoor spigots from freezing temperatures.

DON'T FREEZE UP

Winter Weather is almost here. Prevent the expense and inconvenience of frozen pipes by taking a few simple steps now.

INSULATE EXPOSED/OUTSIDE PIPES AND FAUCETS and pipes in unheated garages and crawl spaces, these are most vulnerable in freezing weather. To prevent these from freezing, wrap them with newspaper, rags, or other insulating material. Cover them with plastic and secure with wire or string. Pipes that have frozen in the past, despite precautionary measures, can be wrapped with electric heat tape. Or, if you don't mind additional cost on your utility bills, you can let one indoor faucet slowly drip water overnight during spells of below freezing temperatures. Do not, however, leave water running in a house that will be vacant for an extended period of time, and **NEVER** leave a garden hose attached to the faucet in freezing weather.

DON'T WAIT FOR AN EMERGENCY TO LOCATE YOUR MAIN SHUT OFF VALVE. Find your main shut-off valve now and test it! If a pipe breaks, you can stop excessive water loss and water damage by turning off the main shut-off valve. It is commonly located in the basement, garage, or outdoors by the foun-

dation, often near the front faucet. Test the valve by turning the handle to be sure it is working properly. If your main shut-off hasn't been used in years it will be subjected to corrosion and it may be better to use the shut-off at the meter box.

KNOWING WHERE YOUR METER IS LOCATED is important for the home owner and the Water District. A three foot radius around the meter box should be clear of plants, trees, shrubs, etc. There is a shut-off valve in the meter box. If you attempt to turn it off, please use extreme caution. Turn firmly, but gently clockwise with a turn off wrench. Call the District if you need help.

WINTERIZING YOUR VACANT HOUSE if you leave for several days, take the following steps to protect pipes from freezing:

Turn off main shut-off valve.

Turn off the electricity or gas to the water heater. If the house is going to be vacant for an extended length of time the water heater should also be drained.

Open indoor and outdoor faucet to drain pipes.

Flush toilet once to drain the tank but not the bowl.

Leave your heat on at a minimum temperature setting to help keep

pipes from freezing in the interior walls.

WHEN WINTERIZING YOUR SPRINKLER SYSTEMS make sure your shut off valve is off and the irrigation lines are drained to prevent freezing and cracking in the system.

PROTECT YOUR PETS if they are outside, pets need special attention during winter. Ensure they have a dry shelter out of the cold and check to see that drinking water is not frozen.

FROZEN PIPES MAY BE THAWED by wrapping them with rags and repeatedly pouring hot water over the rags. Once the pipes are thawed, remove the rags and rewrap pipes with dry insulation material to prevent refreezing. **Never use an open flame or electrical device to thaw frozen pipe.** Using these methods can cause fire or electric shock.

IF THE WATER PIPE BREAKS ON YOUR SIDE OF THE METER turn off the main shut-off to control flooding and water damage. Then contact a plumber to repair the leak. The District maintains the supply system from the source to the meter. Its your responsibility to protect pipes from freezing and repairing broken pipes on your property.

SERVICE LINE REPAIRS

King County Water District No. 54 has been serving some of our original customers for over 70 years. The number of calls received by the District for failed water service lines (customer owned and maintained on private property) is increasing. This is primarily because of the life expectancy of galvanized steel, polyethylene and PVC services lines having been reached. Additional causes for failed service lines include damage by trees and vegetation roots and poor installation practices. Property owners can and should be proactive with inspecting, maintaining and replacing their water lines before they fail. Waiting until these pipes fail before fixing or replacing them can be untimely, more expensive and could cause damage to your property and/or residence. Broken water lines can erode soil damage landscaping, allow dirt into the house plumbing and substantially increase your water bill.

When having your service line replaced be sure to get at least three quotes from qualified contractor who are licensed and bonded to perform the work.

CODE RED FORM

To insure that you are included in the emergency "Code Red" call system we are asking that you go to the website and add your contact information. Fill out the

form and submit it. There is no charge for this service. If you do not have a computer with internet service, we are including a sign-up sheet in this newsletter,

please fill it out and return it to us, we will also have forms available at the District office. Our office manager will input the information for you. The District

office has a drop box in the door so you can return your form at your convenience.



KING COUNTY WATER DISTRICT NO. 54

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Phone: 206-878-7210
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Presorted Standard
U.S. Postage
PAID
Seattle, WA
Permit No. 4136

Water District 54 Hours

Office: M-F 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m.
Answering Service: Available
24 hours a day, 7 day a week.

Board of Commissioner
Meetings held 1st and 3rd
Tuesdays at 4:00 pm at the
District offices.

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CONSERVATION CORNER

Practicing conservation requires a change in behavior. What we save today, will have an impact on our children tomorrow. From turning off the faucet while brushing your teeth to taking showers instead of baths, these simple daily changes can save hundreds of dollars over the course of a year on your water bill. More importantly, they will save natural resources and protect our environment for the future. From our lakes and streams to fish and wildlife, water is no longer a luxury of plenty. Education plays a vital role in conservation. That is why we include a conservation section in our newsletter to help encourage our customers to make conservation a way of life.

Did you know.....Installing restrictive shower and faucet heads can save up to 50% of water used.....In the average home, 2/3 of all water used indoors is used in the bathroom.....Toilets use 33% of all indoor usage.....The average person uses 80 gallons a day.....The average family, 165 gallons per day.



Some Indoor Care tips:

Use flow restrictive shower and faucet heads.

Turn your faucet off while shaving and brushing your teeth.

Check for leaks in all faucets and toilets and repair.

Replace your old toilet with a new water efficient model. Older model toilets use 5-7 gallons per flush. New low consumption toilet use 1.6 gallons per flush.

Wash **full loads** in your dishwasher and washing machine. ½ loads use just as much water as a full load with only half the benefit

Some Garden Care tips:

Use planets that do not require much watering during summer.

Use mulch in your soil around your plants. 1"-2" of mulch will help hold the moisture.

Water slow enough to allow water to soak in the soil.

Set sprinklers to water only areas you want watered.



KEEPING CITIZENS INFORMED



Please print all information clearly

Name: _____

Location type: _____ Home _____ Business

Address: _____

Phone numbers you want associated with this address:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

Would you like an email contact also?: _____

I authorize personnel of King County Water District #54 to submit this information electronically

X _____ Please print name: _____

Turn this form in to the District office or go online and sign up at www.ecnetwork.com/codered/