



Water Lines

BIRCH BAY WATER AND SEWER DISTRICT
SERVING THE GREATER BIRCH BAY AREA SINCE 1968

WINTER | NEWSLETTER | 2016

Utility Rates Increase January 1, 2016

The District is increasing utility rates effective January 1st, 2016. This increase will add \$3.23 per month to the bill of a customer who uses 800 cubic feet of water and sewer a month.

Why the Rate Increase?

- Provide for operations and maintenance of water and sewer services
- Repair/upgrade aging water and sewer infrastructure

Below is a rate comparison for combined utility rates of other utility providers in Whatcom County. Birch Bay continues to have the lowest rates in Whatcom county.

***Please note that the comparison table below is for monthly billing. District water and sewer bills are bi-monthly and reflect two months of basic and usage charges.*

HOW DO WE COMPARE?

2016 Rates Based on Monthly Billing at 800 Cubic Feet

City	Water	Sewer	Tax	Total
Lake Whatcom	\$ 63.74	\$ 74.02	\$ -	\$ 137.76
Blaine	\$ 19.75	\$ 99.00	\$ 10.69	\$ 129.44
Everson	\$ 28.60	\$ 65.00	\$ 5.62	\$ 99.22
Average	\$ 34.73	\$ 55.55	\$ 6.00	\$ 96.28
Ferndale	\$ 32.25	\$ 55.63	\$ 7.91	\$ 95.78
Lynden	\$ 40.07	\$ 46.97	\$ 7.40	\$ 94.44
Bellingham (Flat)	\$ 46.30	\$ 35.40	\$ 11.54	\$ 93.24
Nooksack	\$ 33.08	\$ 50.88	\$ 7.30	\$ 91.26
Bellingham (Metered)	\$ 39.51	\$ 35.40	\$ 9.59	\$ 84.49
Sumas	\$ 12.06	\$ 59.41	\$ -	\$ 71.47
Birch Bay	\$ 31.93	\$ 33.80	\$ -	\$ 65.73



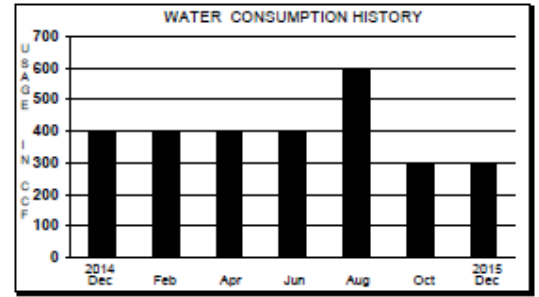
FOR MORE BILLING AND
RATES INFORMATION CHECK
OUT THE BACK OF THE
NEWSLETTER.



Utility Bills Get a “NEW” look!

The District recently updated their billing software and with the update came a “NEW” look to your water & sewer utility bill. The most notable change to your bill is the water consumption history graph. This new feature allows you to look at how your water usage compares between billings as well as one year ago.

While using water efficiently is important throughout the year, sometimes the timing of water use can make a big difference for community water supplies—and your water bill. Water use typically increases in the summer due to increased lawn and landscape watering. The District has tips on their website to help you reduce your water use during the summer under Outdoor Water Conservation tab.



Auto Debit Payments

The option to sign up for auto-debit payments on your utility bill will soon be available on the back side of the detachable stub that is returned to the District. Auto-debit is the least expensive way for the District to receive your payments. Signing up for auto-debits is another way to help keep utility rates low.

REOCCURRING PAYMENT AUTHORIZATION

I authorize Birch Bay Water & Sewer District (BBWSD) to withdraw from my bank account below, the amount due on my water and sewer bill on the due date, or on the next business day. This authorization shall remain in effect until BBWSD has received written notification from me of termination thirty (30) days before the withdrawal date.

US Bank Name: _____ Checking
 Or
 Branch _____ Savings

Routing# _____ Account# _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

PLEASE ENCLOSE A CHECK OR DEPOSIT SLIP

Where are the increases?

<u>WATER RATES</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>\$ INCREASE</u>
Billing & Handling	\$7.90	\$8.00	\$0.10
Base (2 months)	\$19.50	\$20.45	\$0.95
Consumption (5ccf - 20ccf)	\$2.80	\$2.95	\$0.15
Consumption (21ccf or more)	\$5.20	\$5.50	\$0.30
<u>SEWER RATES</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>\$ INCREASE</u>
Billing & Handling	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Base (2 months)	\$35.20	\$37.00	\$2.20
Consumption (5ccf—20ccf)	\$2.40	\$2.55	\$0.15

** Rate increase information based on Residential Inside District per single family residence*



Base Rates

Water and sewer base rates are charged for all customers regardless if water is used or not. Most of the District’s costs are fixed and do not fluctuate with water or sewer usage. A monthly fixed charge for all insures that each customer is covering their cost to the water and sewer system.

For More Information:

The current listing of these and all fees and charges can be found on our website at bbwsd.com/rates.

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