



MANCHESTER-BY-THE-SEA

BOARD OF SELECTMEN • TOWN HALL
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NEW TIERED WATER RATES EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2017

For many years the Town has had a tiered rate structure for water use although the tiers have been so modest that we might as well have a flat rate. With a growing need to be more sparing in our water consumption (recent droughts and high demand have pushed us close to our state permitted water withdrawal limits), we have adopted a new tiered rate structure, adding more tiers and a bigger differential between the tiers as a means of providing a greater financial incentive for higher users to consume less water.

Water is sold in units of a hundred cubic feet (HCF). There are approximately 748 gallons in a hundred cubic feet of water. Your water meter tracks the number of hundred cubic feet you use. Your water bill lists your previous and new meter readings. The difference is the amount of water you used in the billing period in cubic feet. The number of hundred cubic feet is then applied using the appropriate rates. Under the new structure, a base cost for each tier has already been calculated representing the cumulative amount from the preceding tiers. To this base cost, an additional amount for the usage within a tier is added. See the example below.

CURRENT RATES/TIERS

Usage in HCF	Rate
0 - 30	\$5.68
31 - 60	\$5.78
61 +	\$5.90

NEW RATES/TIERS (Effective July 1, 2017)

Usage (HCF)	Rate	Base Cost
Tier 1: 0-9	\$5.68	\$0.00
Tier 2: 9-17	\$5.78	\$51.12
Tier 3: 17-57	\$6.33	\$97.36
Tier 4: 57-160	\$6.89	\$350.76
Tier 5: 160-390	\$7.45	\$1,060.43
Tier 6: 390+	\$8.00	\$2,772.78

To calculate your bill, find your usage amount in the Usage column. Subtract the minimum number for your tier from your actual usage, and multiply the result by the rate. Add that to the base cost for your tier. This sum is the amount of your bill.

For example, if your usage were 15 HCF, you would be in the second tier (9-17). Your bill would be the base cost plus the actual amount used minus the minimum for that tier times the rate for the tier: $\$51.12 + (15 - 9) * \5.78 which is $\$51.12 + (6 * \$5.78)$, or $\$51.12 + \34.68 , or $\$85.80$.

Roughly 50% of all water customers fall within the new Tier 1 or Tier 2 categories where the rates are staying the same. Higher water users will see their water bills increase and thus are particularly encouraged to implement water conservation measures as suggested in the flyer and other sources. High irrigation use is the big driver for many high users. Alternative water sources for irrigation are encouraged. Plants do not need treated drinking water!

Please feel free to contact the Department of Public Works should you have any questions at 978-526-1242.