

City of Berkley

2017/2018

WATER / SEWER RATES

The City of Berkley is committed to provide safe and reliable water and transportation/treatment of sewer to all users of the system. Water and sewer charges should generate enough funds to cover wholesale obligations, debt service, operating costs, equipment and future capital improvements. Below are the current charges listed on the **quarterly** water/sewer service invoice along with a brief explanation of those fees.

Please note Berkley continues to have very competitive rates for municipal utilities. An annual survey of southeast Oakland County communities shows Berkley remains **below** the average for total charges (see SOCWA website for more details at <http://www.socwa.org/> and click on "Water & Sewage Rate Survey" on the right side of the homepage).

WATER AND SANITARY (Code WA): \$7.31 per 1 unit=100 cubic feet=748 gallons

This rate represents the quarterly consumption of water used based on regular meter readings. It also pays for the associated sanitary sewer flow and treatment.

The rate increased in Fiscal 2017-2018 primarily based on three factors:

1. Increases in the wholesale charges paid monthly to SOCWA/GLWA for water and WRC/GLWA for sewer.
2. The establishment of a capital pipe replacement component for water main. This component was not previously part of the rate structure and will allow the City to implement a systematic water main pipe replacement program.
3. Per the recommendation of the City auditors, the ready to serve charge (fixed) was reduced and the water and sanitary charge (variable) was increased. This offsetting change in rate structure will provide the end user with more control over charges.

READY TO SERVE (Code RS): \$21.32 – based on a 3/4 meter

This charge represents the fixed costs of maintaining the existing water and sewer system. It decreased substantially from the previous year based on the recommendation from the City auditor noted above.

STORM WATER (Code SW): \$65.32 per ERU (Equivalent Residential Unit)

This charge covers the cost of transporting and treating the storm water runoff from impervious surfaces with monthly payments made to the Oakland County Water Resource Commissioner (WRC). A standard engineering calculation was previously developed to determine storm water runoff based on impervious areas. This charge also includes debt payment obligations for the upgrading of the George W. Kuhn Drain.

RESIDENTIAL REFUSE (Code RR): \$10.75

This residential fee covers the cost of maintaining the Sanitation Fund, which includes curbside mixed recycling, regular garbage pickup, brush disposal, yard waste and leaf removal at the current level of service.

BILLING CHARGE (Code BC): \$0

This charge was removed from the quarterly utility bills.