Calculating the Residential Sewage Disposal Charge

Information Sheet

City West Water LIMITED

What is the Sewage Disposal Charge?

The volume charges on your bill are made up of two separate charges – Water Usage and Sewage Disposal.

The sewage disposal charge is for the part of your water usage that is discharged to the sewer.

Water that is said to be 'discharged to the sewer' is water that you dispose down any inside drains, including sinks, toilets, troughs and any other drains that connect to the sewer.

The sewage disposal charge covers the transport, treatment and disposal of sewage.

As sewage discharges are not metered, your sewage disposal charge is calculated as a percentage of the amount of water that you use, as measured by your water meter.

On average, around 60% of the water used in a home over a year is discharged to the sewer. This varies from bill to bill, according to the time of the year. City West Water allows for a higher percentage of water use over summer due to garden watering and other outside water use, compared to winter when the majority of water used is within the home.

To calculate your sewage disposal charge for a specific bill period, you can use the following five steps.

Step 1 Determine the kilolitres of water used (A)

The total number of kilolitres of water used at your property is shown on the back of your quarterly bill as 'consumption'.

Kilolitres of water used = ☐ (A) write this in the corresponding box in step 4.

Step 2 Calculate the Seasonal Factor (D)

The seasonal factor recognises that more water would be used outside the house in the warmer months. The seasonal factor is derived from the seasonal index for each calendar month (shown in the table below).

The dates of your water meter reading period are shown on the back of your bill. Calculate the number of days of each month covered by the meter reading period and insert these into the table below.

For example, during a meter reading period starting on 8 January 2006 and ending on 6 April 2006, there are 88 days, as follows:
23 days in January (you don't count 8 January),
28 days in February,
31 days in March,
and 6 days in April (count the 6 April)

Write the number of days against each month in the table below, and total the column to calculate (B).

Multiply the number of days in each month by the seasonal index relevant to either a house or a flat/unit. Write the result in the table (overleaf), and total the column to calculate (C).

Month	Days in month	Seasonal Index for House*	Seasonal Index for Flat/Unit*	Number of billed days in month	Multiplied by seasonal index
January	31	2.0	1.3		
February	28**	2.0	1.3		
March	31	1.9	1.2		
April	30	1.5	1.1		
May	31	1.3	1.0		
June	30	1.1	1.0		
July	31	1.0	1.0		
August	31	1.1	1.0		
September	30	1.2	1.0		
October	31	1.4	1.1		
November	30	1.7	1.1		
December	31	1.9	1.2		
				Total (B)	Total (C)

* 'House' and 'flat/unit' are defined in the Melbourne Metropolitan Retail Water Services Pricing Order. Contact City West Water on 131 691 for further information.
** Remember that February has 29 days during a leap year.

Then you need to divide (B) by (C) to derive the seasonal factor (D): ☐ (B) ÷ ☐ (C) = ☐ (D) Seasonal factors (to 4 decimal places) (Write this in the corresponding box in step 4.)

Step 3 Determine the Discharge Factor (F)

To determine the discharge factor, calculate the 'quarterly equivalent volume of water', and select the relevant discharge factor from the table below. The quarterly equivalent volume of water is the quarterly consumption on your bill adjusted for the number of days in the meter reading period to conform to a standard quarter of 91.25 days. It is derived using the following formula:

☐ (A) x 91.25
÷ ☐ (B)
= ☐ (E) Quarterly equivalent (E) volume of water

Select from the table below the discharge factor that is applicable to your quarterly equivalent volume of water.

Quarterly equivalent volume of water	Applicable discharge factor
Less than or equal to 125 kL	0.9
More than 125 kL and less than or equal to 250 kL	0.9 less 0.0036 per kL in excess of 125 kL
More than 250 kL	0.45

Discharge factor
= ☐ (F) (Write this in the corresponding box in step 4.)

Step 4 Calculate the Volume of Sewage (G)

This is an estimate of the amount of sewage that is discharged from a residential property or premises. Multiply (A), (D) and (F) to derive (G), the volume of sewage.

☐ kL (A) kilolitres of water used X ☐ (D) seasonal factor X ☐ (F) discharge factor

Volume of sewage = ☐ kL (G)

Round this 'volume of sewage' figure down to two decimal places, i.e. 16.755 kL is rounded down to 16.75 kL.

Rounded down volume of sewage = ☐ kL (G)

Step 5 Calculate your Sewage Disposal Charge

The disposal charge is the volume of sewage (G) multiplied by the current price ($1.4153c per kilolitre for 2009/2010).

☐ kL volume of sewage (G) X $1.4153c price per kilolitre = ☐ sewage disposal charge

City West Water provides water, sewerage, trade waste and recycled water services to Melbourne's central business district, inner and western suburbs.

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