



CITY OF PORT WASHINGTON | DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS | WATER TREATMENT DIVISION  
Dan Fisher, Water & Wastewater Superintendent

### Utility Bill Explained

- A bi-monthly Utility Bill consists of both Sewer & Water base and usage charges. **It is not just a water bill.**
  - Base charges include:
    - Sewer Base – \$42.00
    - Water Base – Based on meter size. Most common is 5/8” or 3/4” - \$18.00.
    - Public Fire – Based on meter size. Most common is 5/8” or 3/4” - \$25.50.
  - Variable charges include:
    - Water usage fee – \$5.77 per 100 cubic feet (**100 cubic feet = 748 gallons**).
    - Sewer fee – \$3.90 per 100 cubic feet of water usage.
- Water meters are read bi-monthly to determine usage.
  - The current read is subtracted from the previous read. Example:
    - 5/1/2025 – 6/30/2025 water meter usage read = 540
    - 7/1/2025 – 8/31/2025 water meter usage read = 549
      - $549 - 540 = 9$  units (**1 unit = 100 cubic feet**).
        - $9 \text{ units} * 748 \text{ gallons} = 6,732 \text{ gallons}$
        - $9 \text{ units} * \$5.77 \text{ (water usage fee)} = \$51.93$
        - $9 \text{ units} * \$3.90 \text{ (sewer usage fee, based on water usage)} = \$35.10$
- An example of a utility bill with 9 units or 6,732 gallons used:

○ Water Base	= \$18.00 (Fixed)
○ Water Usage	= \$51.93 ( $\$5.77 * 9$ units)
○ Sewer Base	= \$42.00 (Fixed)
○ Sewer Usage	= \$35.10 ( $\$3.68 * 9$ units)
○ <u>Public Fire</u>	= <u>\$25.50 (Fixed)</u>
▪ Total	= \$172.53
- Utility bills will only fluctuate from the amount of water that is used in each two month period.

### Explanation of Charges

**Water Charges:** Set by the Public Service Commission (PSC) of Wisconsin.

**Water Base Fee:** A Fixed charge based on the size of the water meter. It pays for installation, repair, maintenance, and reading of water meters, billing, and customer service.

**Water Usage Fee:** A variable charge based on the amount of water used and pays for operation and maintenance of water treatment and pumping facilities.

**Sewer Base Fee:** A Fixed charge based on a connection to the sanitary sewer system. It pays for the cost of installation of sanitary infrastructure.

**Sewer Fee:** A variable charge based on the amount of water used and pays for operation and maintenance of wastewater treatment facilities.