

How is My Utility Bill Calculated?

A Guide to Edwardsville Residential Utility Bills



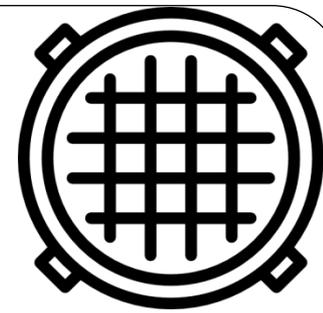
Utility bills are calculated using the following factors:

- Personal water usage in the winter months
 - December, January, February
- Variable charges based on winter water usage
- Base monthly charge for sewer
- Base monthly charge for trash/recycling



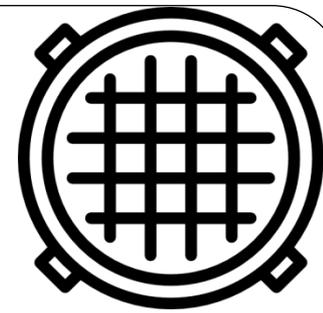
Winter Water Usage

- **Why use the winter water usage to calculate sewer bills for the whole year?**
 - Sewer bills are based on water usage. Water that comes out of the faucet is used to estimate the water that goes into the public sewer system.
 - Summer water usage may spike water bills due usage such as watering lawns, filling pools, etc.
 - Winter water averaging helps provide stability so utility customers know what their bill will be each billing cycle.



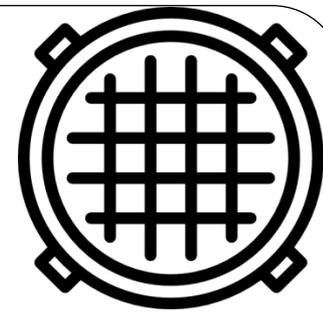
Winter Water Usage

- **Who provides the water usage data?**
 - The Board of Public Utilities (BPU) sends the City the same water usage data used to calculate monthly water bills.
 - City staff uses the usage data from December, January, and February to calculate the average winter water usage.
 - That usage, expressed in Centum Cubic Feet (or CCF), is used for the bill calculation formula.



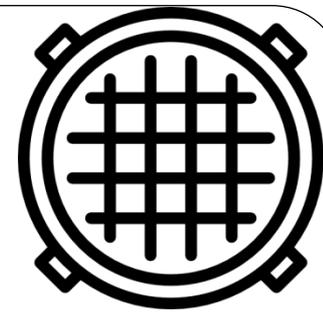
CCF & Sewer Charges

- **How is the average calculated?**
 - CCF = about 748 gallons.
 - Consider the following sample water customer. Below is their water usage from December-February:
 - December: 2,019 gallons (2.7 CCF)
 - January: 1,720 gallons (2.3 CCF)
 - February: 2,169 gallons (2.9 CCF)
 - **Average: 1,969 gallons (2.6 CCF)**
 - The average winter water usage is 2.6 CCF. For billing purposes, usages are rounded to next highest number.



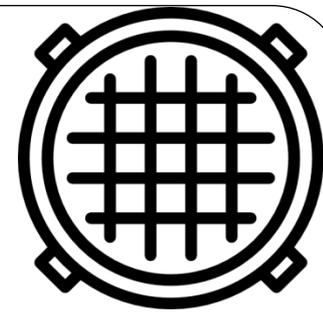
CCF & Sewer Charges

- **What is the formula used for sewer bills?**
 - Using the average from the previous slide, the formula used to calculate sewer bills is as follows:
 - Winter Water Usage Average (2.6 CCF, rounded up to 3 CCF)
x
Variable usage charge (\$3.87)
+
Base monthly charge for sewer utility (\$24.95)
= \$36.56 per month (or \$73.12 every two months)



CCF & Sewer Charges

- **What is normal water usage?**
 - “Normal” usage depends on the makeup of different households
 - A small family (three people or less) will likely have an average winter water usage of 2-4 CCFs.
 - Larger families will likely use more water, which means a higher winter average.
 - Baths/showers, tooth brushing, handwashing, cooking, toilet use, etc.
 - The average usage for all Edwardsville households is 6 CCFs
 - If a person or family moves in mid-year, they are assigned a water usage average of 6 CCF until a winter water usage can be calculated.



Sewer Fund

- **What do sewer charges pay for?**
 - The City's sewer fund is used to cover the costs to keep the public sewer system operational including the cost of personnel, repairs, equipment, and debt payments
 - The largest annual cost to the system is the wastewater treatment contract with the Unified Government of Wyandotte County
 - Wastewater sent to the UG for treatment is metered and charged as a wholesale customer
 - Staff calculations show that this cost is roughly \$330,000 annually

Trash & Recycling



- **Why am I charged for trash & recycling?**
 - The City of Edwardsville currently has a contract with Waste Management to provide weekly curbside pickup of trash and recycling
 - This contract was entered into in 2016 and expires at the end of 2020
 - Waste Management charges the City a per-household charge every month. Currently, the per household charge is based on approximately 1,100 households.
 - Per the 2016 contract, the household charge to the City has increased 1.5% every year.



Trash & Recycling

- **How do our monthly charges compare to the region?**
 - The City of Edwardsville currently charges \$18.12 (or \$36.24) per month for weekly curbside pickup for trash and recycling.
 - In December of 2019, City staff compared trash rates to similar communities with similar service levels. The results are expressed in the table below:

CITY	POP.	RESIDENT CHARGE	SERVICE LEVEL
Basehor	6,015	\$15.09	Weekly Recycling
Lansing	11,947	\$16.69	Weekly Recycling
Edwardsville	4,498	\$18.12	Weekly Recycling
De Soto	6,107	\$18.50	Bi-weekly Recycling
Tonganoxie	5,065	\$19.50	Bi-Weekly Recycling
Eudora	6,329	\$19.50	Bi-Weekly Recycling
Louisburg	4,487	\$20.18	Weekly Recycling (if requested)

Total Utility Bill



- **When do I receive bills and what is included?**
 - The City of Edwardsville sends out bills the last week of every even-numbered month (February, April, June, August, October, December) for payment by the 15th of every odd-numbered month (January, March, May, July, September, November).
 - These include 2 month's worth of sewer and trash & recycling charges.
 - Using the sewer sample customer from slides 4 & 5:
 - **\$73.12 (2 months of sewer) + \$36.24 (2 months of trash & recycling) = \$109.36 billed every 2 months**

FAQs



- **Trash service used to be free, when did that change?**
 - In the past, trash service was not free. The charges were assessed to annual property taxes rather than billed throughout the year.
- **I have a septic tank. Will I be billed for sewer?**
 - Residents on septic should not receive a bill for sewer usage. They will still receive a trash bill every 2 months and a monthly water bill from BPU.
- **I don't recycle. Why am I still charged?**
 - All residents have the ability to participate in recycling and are billed for the service whether they use it or not. Residents are encouraged to recycle in order to reduce reliance on the local landfill.
- **My overall bill went up more than 3%. Why?**
 - Usually, there are slight increases to both sewer and trash/recycling charges. Combined, this may compound the percentage increase. Also, any increases to winter water usage also will cause a larger increase in the final bill.



- **If you have additional questions about your Edwardsville utility bill, please contact the City Hall Office Administrator at 913-356-6000 (extension 1)**

