



Notice of Sewer Rate Increase

January 2017

Dear Customer:

The City of Fort Smith entered into a Consent Decree with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Due to the Consent Decree, the City Board of Directors approved sewer rate increases in April 2015 to fund this action and invest in utility infrastructure. This notice is to advise you that the 2017 rate increase will be effective January 1, 2017. The rate increase will affect sewer charges beginning with your January 2017 usage, which will be reflected on your February 2017 billing statement.

See chart below for comparison of 2016 and 2017 sewer rates:

User Class	2016 Rate	2017 Rate
Billing Charge	\$3.50 Per Account	\$4.50 Per Account
Volume Charge – Residential, Commercial, Industrial	\$7.10 Per 100 cubic feet	\$8.45 Per 100 cubic feet
Volume Charge – Wholesale	\$2.26 Per 100 cubic feet	\$2.69 Per 100 cubic feet

We value our customers and are committed to working with you to help manage the rate increase and billing changes. See the reverse side of this notice for answers to frequently asked questions and tips for water and sewer conservation.

Frequently Asked Questions

Why are the sewer rates increasing?

The City of Fort Smith entered into a Consent Decree with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The Consent Decree is a federal court order requiring the City to make improvements to the sewer system over a period of twelve years. The improvements will cost more than \$400 million.

I do not understand my utility bill.

The bill details three different charges for three different services – water, sewer, and sanitation. This consolidated billing saves the taxpayers money.

Does the increase also affect my water and sanitation bills?

No. Your monthly utility bill includes charges for water, sewer, and sanitation. The rate increase **only** affects your sewer usage. See sample bill below.

WATER VOLUME: 7 CCF (5236 GAL)	
WATER CHARGES:	
WATER BASE CHARGE	4.97
WATER VOLUME 5 CCF @ 2.28 (3740 GAL)	11.40
WATER VOLUME 2 CCF @ 2.96 (1496 GAL)	5.92
WATER SALES TAX @ 9.750%	2.17
ARKANSAS SAFE DRINKING WATER FEE	0.30
*** SUBTOTAL WATER CHARGES ***	24.76
SEWER CHARGES:	
SEWER BASE CHARGE	3.50
SEWER VOLUME 7 CCF @ 7.10	49.70
*** SUBTOTAL SEWER CHARGES ***	53.20
SANITATION CHARGES:	
SANITATION SERVICE	13.28
SANITATION SALES TAX @ 9.750%	1.29
*** SUBTOTAL SANITATION CHARGES ***	14.57
TOTAL CHARGES	92.53

Who do I contact if I have additional questions?

For billing and service questions, call Customer Service at 479-784-2262.

Where can I get more information online?

Visit us at <http://fortsmithwater.org>.

To compare your current sewer rates to the sewer rates that will appear on your February 2017 billing statement, go to <http://www.fortsmithar.gov/utillsDept/sewerbillingcompair.aspx>.

Water Conservation Tips to Lower Water & Sewer Bill

- ❖ **Use your dishwasher and run only a full load.** It takes more water to hand-wash. Instead of rinsing plates, scrape and then let your dishwasher do the rest.
- ❖ **Don't use the garbage disposal.** Compost food waste or dispose of it in the trash. Neither option requires the use of water.
- ❖ **Repair leaky faucets and toilets.** According to the National Sanitation Foundation, a leaky faucet can waste as much as 1000-2000 gallons of water each year. A leaky toilet can waste as much as 500 gallons of water each day.
- ❖ **Switch to low-flow showers and toilets.** A low-flow shower can reduce the usage by 3 gallons per minute. A low flow toilet can reduce usage by 2 gallons per flush. As a low cost option, place a 20-ounce bottle filled with water or sand in the tank of your toilet. This displaces the water in your tank and will reduce each flush by 20 ounces.