

# A GUIDE TO UNDERSTANDING YOUR WATER RATES

START ►



# WATER BILLS OFTEN (BUT NOT ALWAYS) INCLUDE TWO KINDS OF CHARGES:

**1**

Charges that stay the same regardless of how much water is used.

**2**

Charges based on the amount of water used.

**SEE EXAMPLES ►**



**DID YOU  
KNOW?**

To learn more about your own water rate structure, check the website for your town or water utility.



# WATER BILLS OFTEN (BUT NOT ALWAYS) INCLUDE TWO KINDS OF CHARGES.

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1

2



## DID YOU KNOW?

Most of a water system's costs are spent on building, fixing, and maintaining the system – not on delivering water.”

To learn more about your own water rate structure, check the website for your town or water utility.

# COMMON TYPES OF MA WATER RATES:



## UNIFORM RATE:

Each unit of water costs the same,  
no matter how much you use  
(this is like most things we buy)

**VIEW EXAMPLE BILL**

**UNIFORM RATE**

**INCLINING BLOCK RATE**

**SEASONAL RATES**

**OTHER**

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check the website for your town or water utility.*

# COMMON TYPES OF MA WATER RATES:



## INCLINING BLOCK RATE:

Promotes conservation by charging higher per-unit prices for water use above certain volumes

[VIEW EXAMPLE BILL](#)

UNIFORM RATE

INCLINING BLOCK RATE

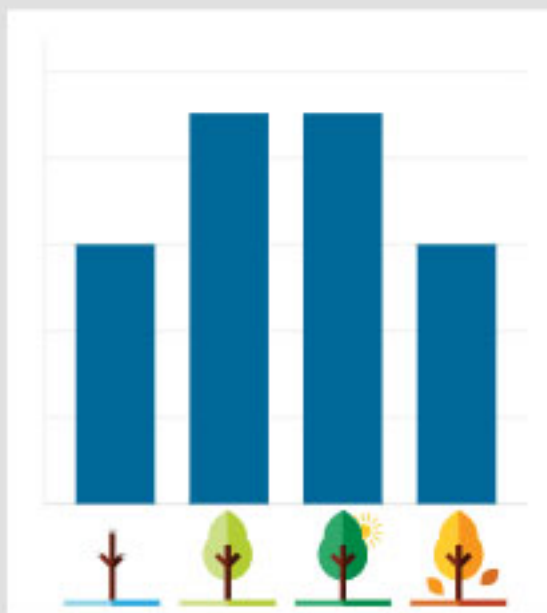
SEASONAL RATES

OTHER

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# COMMON TYPES OF MA WATER RATES:



## SEASONAL RATES:

Higher per-unit charges during certain seasons, to encourage reductions in use during these peak times

**UNIFORM RATE**

**INCLINING BLOCK RATE**

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# TYPES OF WATER RATES:

In certain situations, suppliers might consider some less common types of rate structures:



**DROUGHT RATES** might be used to increase per-unit charges during supply shortages to encourage conservation while helping to keep the system running.



**BUDGET BASED RATES** might be used to assign each household individualized volume thresholds between rate tiers, based on household size.

**UNIFORM RATE**

**INCLINING BLOCK RATE**

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# UNIFORM RATE EXAMPLE

This component of the bill goes towards supporting the maintenance and upkeep of the whole system

This utility uses a uniform rate structure that charges the user \$0.00295 per gallon (~3 cents for every 10 gallons) used during the billing period.

## BILLING DETAIL

AMOUNT OWED FROM LAST BILL	\$135.80
TOTAL PAYMENTS RECEIVED	135.80
REMAINING BALANCE	0.00

Service Fee	20.84
12,500 Gallons @ 0.00295 per Gallon	36.88

**CURRENT WATER CHARGES 57.72**
