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.

DID YOU KNOW?

SEE EXAMPLES

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:

1. 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)

**INCLINING BLOCK RATE**

**SEASONAL RATES**

**OTHER**

To learn more about your own water rate structure, 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

UNIFORM RATE
INCLINING BLOCK RATE
SEASONAL RATES
OTHER

VIEW EXAMPLE BILL

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

SEASONAL RATES

OTHER

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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**

**Seasonal Rates**

**Other**

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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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Service Fee</td>
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<tr>
<td>12,500 Gallons @ 0.00295 per Gallon</td>
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**CURRENT WATER CHARGES**

57.72