

WATERLINE

A PUBLICATION OF THE BOARD OF MUNICIPAL UTILITIES

John Dzwonczyk, Chair
Tony Abram, Tim Rush, Dana Schnabel

Winter 2021

WATER AND WASTEWATER RATES

Water Rates:

Minimum Service Fee	\$4.25
First 50,000 gal	\$2.08/1,000 gal
Next 200,000 gal	\$1.71/1,000 gal
Over 250,000 gal	\$1.42/1,000 gal

*The Minimum Service Fee is for residential customers and includes the first 2,000/gal of usage. Rates for Standard ¾" meter.

Wastewater Rates:

Minimum Service Fee	\$23.00
Rate Per 1,000 gal	\$7.30/1,000 gal

*The Minimum Service Fee is for residential customers and includes the first 2,000/gal of usage. Rates for Standard ¾" meter.

BOARD HOLDS THE LINE ON RATES FOR 2022

For the second year in a row, the Avon Lake Board of Municipal Utilities (the Board) approved freezing water and wastewater rates at current amounts. On Tuesday, December 7, 2021, the Board approved Avon Lake Regional Water's 2022 Operating Budget, which included freezing rates for 2022. The 2022 Operating Budget is a balanced budget, without using any reserve funds.

2022 Water Rates per 1,000 Gallons



"Like everyone else, the Board is experiencing higher costs due to inflation in the United States since 2021 began. Still, our excellent management team and good fortune in terms of demand has made us financially situated to forestall planned rate increases at this time. Although the rate freeze went largely unremarked in 2020, we feel that this is an accomplishment by a governmental agency which indeed does have the interest of its constituency at heart," said John Dzwonczyk, Chairman of the Avon Lake Board of Municipal Utilities.

Avon Lake Regional Water's water and wastewater rates are listed to the left.



Paul "Randy" Phillips
August 16, 1961 –
December 5, 2021

MOURNING THE LOSS OF BOARD MEMBER PAUL R. "RANDY" PHILLIPS

The Board and Avon Lake Regional Water mourn the loss of Board Member Randy Phillips. Mr. Phillips passed away on December 5, 2021.

"I have worked alongside Randy Phillips on the Board since 2006, and considered him a font of wisdom and legal savvy. He leaves some very large shoes for the Board to fill," said John Dzwonczyk, Chairman of the Avon Lake Board of Municipal Utilities.

Mr. Phillips was first elected to the Board in 2006 and served from 2006 to 2015. He returned to the Board in 2017 to complete the term of former Board member Rob Berner. During his service, Mr. Phillips voted to authorize critical infrastructure improvements to Avon Lake Regional Water's distribution & collection system, which greatly benefits all Avon Lake customers today. In addition, his legal guidance helped Avon Lake Regional Water staff navigate through these improvements and general operation of the organization.



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COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT WATER AND WASTEWATER USAGE

Why is the wastewater charge higher than the water charge?

The water rate for Avon Lake customers is lower than the wastewater rate because 85% of the water produced at our Water Filtration Plant is sold to customers outside of Avon Lake. By selling the water, we are able to spread the costs of producing and distributing it to all our customers, not to just those in Avon Lake. However, on the wastewater side, 85% of the wastewater that comes to our Water Reclamation Facility for treatment is from just Avon Lake customers. This means that the majority of treatment costs are paid for by Avon Lake customers. Treatment costs also play a role in the wastewater rate. The treatment process ensures the water that returns to Lake Erie is properly cleaned and meets all U.S. and Ohio EPA requirements.

Also, over the past several years, Avon Lake Regional Water has invested in critical wastewater infrastructure improvement projects to address increasing demand on the system, reduce basement backups in Avon Lake homes, and to protect Lake Erie. These projects included a \$35



million rehabilitation to our Water Reclamation Facility and separating all the combined sewers in Avon Lake (completed in 2019) per our Long-Term Control Plan with Ohio EPA. The wastewater rate paid for by all our customers contributes to payment of these projects since all customers benefit from the improvements.

Does a leaking toilet/faucet/shower really cause my bill to increase?

Yes. When there is a leak, water will continuously run, no matter if it is a drip or stream. Drips over time will add up because your water meter will run when it detects water being pulled from the water main into your home.

If you suspect there might be a leaking toilet in your home, ALRW offers free toilet dye packets at our office (201 Miller Road) to check for a leaking toilet. Also, ALRW offers leak checks by our Distribution & Collection crew. A two-person team will monitor your water meter for usage after you have confirmed there is no water running in the home. If there is usage, our crew will help you determine where there is a possible leak. For more information, please give our office a call at (440) 933-6226.

What part of my home's water and sanitary lines are my responsibility?

For the waterline, a homeowner is responsible for all the areas past their water meter. This includes the area of the line outside your home and all lines inside your home. For the sanitary lateral, a homeowner is responsible for all the areas before the sewer main. This includes all plumbing lines inside your home and the area of sanitary lateral that connects to our sewer main.

Does Avon Lake Regional Water manage stormwater and maintenance of the storm sewers?

No, stormwater and maintenance of the storm sewers in Avon Lake is handled by the Public Works Department.

TIPS ON HOW TO AVOID FROZEN WATER PIPES

Below are several tips you can take to avoid the hassles and costs associated with frozen water pipes during the winter:

- Do a visual inspection of your home's exterior. Seal any cracks you see and look for air leaks close to the pipes. If there is cold air leaking in, even through a tiny space, pipes can freeze quickly and burst.
- Turn up the thermostat to 65 degrees or higher during the winter. Temperatures in the attic or behind the walls can become cold enough to let the pipes freeze if the thermostat is turned lower than this.
- Put outdoor hoses away before temperatures drop in the winter months, and then shut off the indoor valve.
- In extremely cold temperatures, keep one faucet on in the home, but set it so it only drip warm water slowly. Even the smallest trickle can aid in preventing pipes from freezing. Whenever possible, use a faucet that is located on an outside wall.
- When leaving the home for any period of time, have someone check on it daily when temperatures drop significantly. They should be on the lookout for water damage, standing water or just confirmation that a faucet has been left dripping and that the house is warm enough to prevent frozen pipes. If this is not possible and you know severe temperatures are coming during your absence, consider draining your water system and shut it off before leaving.
- Know how to spot a frozen pipe. If the faucet is turned on but water does not come out, this is a sign that the pipe is frozen. Leave the faucet on. It is possible to thaw a frozen pipe with a hair dryer or space heater. Start close to the faucet, and work toward the coldest section of the pipe. Avoid using any open flames or torches to defrost pipes.
- In case of a burst pipe: Turn the water off at your home's main shutoff valve. Turn all of your home's faucets on, and call a plumber immediately.