

## **Water Bill**

Reading your utility bill is simple once you understand a few key points.

First, water and sewer are billed in units of hundred cubic feet or (HCF). The table below shows conversions to the more familiar gallon.

1 Cubic Foot of Water	=	7.48 gallons of water
100 Cubic Feet of Water (HCF)	=	748 gallons of water

Second, you may notice a number of abbreviations on the bill.

WA is a water related charge.

SW is a sanitary sewer related charge.

GS is garbage service.

LL is Laurel Glen Lift Station.

BL is Baxter Meadows Lift Station.

BD is bank draft discount.

Below is a sample of an actual bill from the City of Bozeman.

RECEIVED DEC 07 2007

**CITY OF BOZEMAN**

411 E MAIN ST • PO BOX 1230 • BOZEMAN, MT 59771-1230  
 Water/Sewer: (406) 582-2328 • Garbage: (406) 582-2332

**STATEMENT**

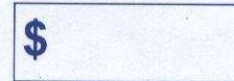
WATER, SEWER & GARBAGE SERVICE



SERVICE ADDRESS			
Buildings Address Here			
ACCOUNT NUMBER	CYCLE	BILL DATE	DUE DATE
27137-121920	01-36	11/28/07	12/15/07
Total Current Charges			76.83
Balance Forward			.00
Total Amount Due			76.83

**CITY OF BOZEMAN**

Billing Address here



1

Please return this portion with payment. *Thank You*

**SERVICE ADDRESS**

Building's Address

ACCOUNT NUMBER	CYCLE	BILL DATE	DUE DATE
27137-121920	01-36	11/28/07	12/15/07

Pay or View your bill on-line  
 @ [www.bozeman.net](http://www.bozeman.net)

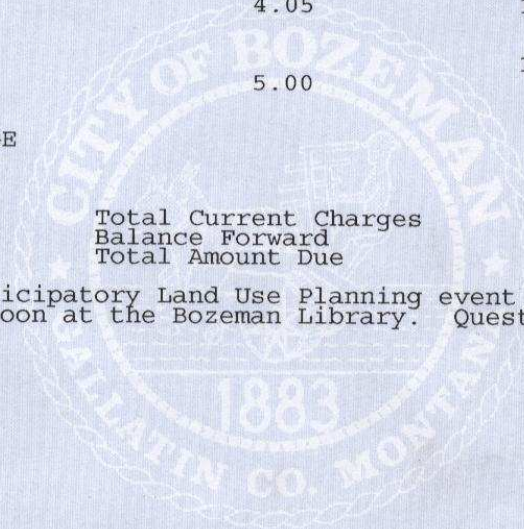
**Rate Class** : RESIDENTIAL  
 Last payment amount/date: 153.01 11/14/07

Service Period	Days	Meter Number	Units	Current	Previous	Usage
WA 10/10/07 11/08/07	29	79444876	HCF	5682.50	5492.	19.05
						USAGE FOR 11/06 6.80

Service	Consumption	Charge	Total
WA SERVICE CHARGE		12.18	
WA MINIMUM FIRST 2 HCF	2.00	4.10	
WA USAGE 2-8 HCF	6.00	12.30	
WA USAGE 8-15 HCF	7.00	15.40	
WA USAGE OVER 15 HCF	4.05	10.53	
TOTAL WATER			54.51
SW SERVICE CHARGE		10.80	
SW USAGE PER HCF	5.00	9.25	
TOTAL SEWER			20.05
LL LIFT STATION CHARGE		2.27	2.27

Total Current Charges 76.83  
 Balance Forward .00  
 Total Amount Due 76.83

Join us for a Participatory Land Use Planning event on Saturday, December 1st from 9 am to noon at the Bozeman Library. Questions? Call 582-2260.



A 1.5% Late Fee (or \$1.00 minimum) will be assessed on delinquent balances.  
 A \$25.00 Fee will be assessed to all customers who receive a Yellow Hang Tag due to a delinquent utility bill.  
 Water will be subject to being turned off if payment is not made by due date.

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Now let's take a closer look at this bill.

Service Period	Days	Meter Number	Units	Current	Previous	Usage
WA 10/10/07 11/08/07	29	79444876	HCF	5682.50	5492.	19.05
				USAGE FOR 11/06		6.80

The service period indicates the time frame during which water usage occurred. It shows that there are 29 days in this billing cycle. It then shows the unique meter number for your home. As discussed, your water is measured in HCF. Current refers to your latest meter reading, while previous refers to last months reading. Under usage the readings are measured in ten cubic feet and then converted to HCF for billing purposes.

$$\begin{array}{r}
 5682.5 \text{ ten cubic feet} \\
 - 5492 \text{ ten cubic feet} \\
 \hline
 190.5 \text{ ten cubic feet}
 \end{array}
 \qquad
 \begin{array}{r}
 190.5 \\
 \div 10 \\
 \hline
 19.05 \text{ hundred cubic feet}
 \end{array}$$

For a point of comparison, we provide last years usage for the same time period below Current and Previous usage.

The next part of the bill is then a breakdown of charges as shown below.

### Water Charges

Service	Consumption	Charge	Total
WA SERVICE CHARGE		12.18	
WA MINIMUM FIRST 2 HCF	2.00	4.10	
WA USAGE 2-8 HCF	6.00	12.30	
WA USAGE 8-15 HCF	7.00	15.40	
WA USAGE OVER 15 HCF	4.05	10.53	
<b>TOTAL WATER</b>			<b>54.51</b>

Regardless of usage, everyone pays a water and sewer service charge. These charges pay for maintenance and improvements to the infrastructure. The service charges listed in the table below are based on a 30 day cycle. This particular bill was read on a 29 day cycle therefore, the charges are pro-rated.

$$\begin{array}{r}
 \$ 12.60 \\
 \div 30 \text{ days} \\
 \hline
 \$ 0.42 / \text{day}
 \end{array}
 \qquad
 \begin{array}{r}
 \$ 0.42 / \text{day} \\
 \times 29 \text{ days} \\
 \hline
 \$ 12.18
 \end{array}$$

The service charge for 29 days is \$12.18.

Water is billed on an incremental rate structure—those who conserve pay less.

Everyone is billed for a minimum of 2.0 HCF. For single-family residents, the fee per HCF is \$2.05 for a total charge of \$4.10.

$$\begin{array}{r}
 \$ 2.05 \text{ per HCF} \\
 \times 2 \text{ HCF} \\
 \hline
 \$ 4.10
 \end{array}$$

The rest is figured out similarly according to the rate scale. The rate scale for this period is shown below (the most recent rate scale can be found by clicking [here](#)).

	Effective Sept.1 2007
<b>Residential &amp; Low Income*</b>	
First 0-7 HCF	2.05
8-15 HCF	2.20
Over 15 HCF	2.60
<b>Multi-Family</b>	1.57
<b>Commercial &amp; Com Spec</b>	1.38
<b>Government &amp; Govt Spec</b>	1.43
<b>Montana State University</b>	1.78

\* Metered, Single Family Only

Mathematically you would figure out what you owe for each tier separately. Since this is a residential, single-family building the appropriate rates are used.

2-8 HCF	8-15 HCF	15+ HCF
\$2.05	\$2.20	\$2.60
$\times 6$	$\times 7$	$\times 4.05$
\$12.30	\$15.40	\$10.53

The sum of all of these numbers (\$4.10 + \$12.30 + \$15.40 + \$10.53) totals \$54.51.

### Sewer Charges

Sewer consumption is not metered. What enters your home through your faucets must exit through your drain. Therefore, during the winter months (mid November thru mid April) your sewer and water usage are the same. However, during the summer months (mid April thru mid November) we realize less water goes down the drain due to irrigation, car washing etc, so we cap the maximum we charge for sewer by using your previous winter average.

SW	SERVICE CHARGE		10.80	
SW	USAGE PER HCF	5.00	9.25	
	TOTAL SEWER			20.05

So first we again have a service charge. This service charge for residential customers in this period is \$11.17 for a 30 day period. Since the reading was over a 29 day period we can figure out the actual charge.

$$\begin{array}{r}
 \$ 11.17 \\
 \div \underline{30 \text{ days}} \\
 \$ 0.372 / \text{day}
 \end{array}
 \qquad
 \begin{array}{r}
 \$ 0.372 / \text{day} \\
 \times \underline{29 \text{ days}} \\
 \$ 10.80
 \end{array}$$

Now you'll notice that the billing period for this is the month of November and it is due by December 15, 2007. This is still considered a summer month. This residential unit used 19.05 HCF of water over this period, but their average from last winter is only 5.00 HCF. 5.00 HCF usage is the lesser of the two so it is the one we use for billing purposes. The sewer rate for this period is \$1.85 / HCF and we figure out the charge as follows.

$$\begin{array}{r}
 \$ 1.85 \text{ per HCF} \\
 \times \underline{5 \text{ HCF}} \\
 \$ 9.25
 \end{array}$$

The total sanitary sewer charge for this bill is then \$10.80 + \$9.25 = \$20.05.

### Lift Station Charge

The last charges on this bill refer to select portions of town and not everyone will have this charge. Note that the "LL" means the charge is related to a sanitary sewer lift station. There are a few subdivisions in town that have lift stations to pump sewage to a high enough point where it can flow with gravity to the treatment plant. Units in those subdivisions are charged a fee to cover the costs associated with running the lift station.

<b>1. Users of the Baxter Meadows Lift Station</b>	All Customers, based on meter size	5/8" meter - \$4.20/month
		1" - \$5.46/month
		1 1/2" - \$7.98/month
		2" - \$11.34/month
<b>2. Users of the Laurel Glen Lift Station</b>	All Customers, based on meter size	5/8" meter - \$2.27/month
		1" - \$2.96/month
		1 1/2" - \$4.32/month
		2" - \$6.14/month

The bill in this case refers to a user of the Laurel Glen Lift Station who has a 5/8" water meter at a charge of \$2.27/month.

LL	LIFT STATION CHARGE	2.27	2.27
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The total is then figured by summing everything (\$2.27 + \$20.05 + \$54.51) = \$76.83.

We hope this document helps you understand your water and sewer bill a little more. Again, you can always check out the current water and sewer rates [here](#). You can also pay and view your water bill online [here](#). The number at the bottom of your bill will be your link for any question about your water and sewer bill (shown below).

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