

# WARWICK SEWER AUTHORITY

(401) 739-4949

## What Does My Sewer Usage Bill Pay For and Why Is It So High?

The **sewer usage fees** pay for the collection and treatment of your wastewater. It also pays to maintain the pipes, pump stations and sophisticated processes used to do that. The City of Warwick's Wastewater Treatment Facility has a permit to discharge the cleaned water to the Pawtuxet River.

The **service charge** pays for debt service as well as administration and billing-related services.

The **renewal and replacement charge** pays for necessary capital improvements to the City's existing wastewater treatment infrastructure.

Charges for sewers cannot be compared to charges for the delivery of drinking water to your home. It costs much more to collect, pump, treat and dispose of by-products generated during the wastewater treatment process. It also costs more to maintain wastewater treatment systems and capital infrastructure to ensure there are no interruptions in service. In general, the bill is 3 times higher for sewer service.

The current residential usage rate is \$46.86 per 1,000 cubic feet of water used. The current commercial usage rate is \$71.81 per 1,000 cubic feet.

The current residential service charge is \$31.10 per unit. The current commercial service charge varies, based on the size of the water meter.

The current renewal and replacement charge on all accounts is \$0.48 per 1,000 cubic feet.

The Warwick Sewer Authority bills quarterly, based on your water usage. It is highly recommended that you purchase a deduct meter if you have a lot of outside water usage which does not end up at the treatment facility.