

Knowledge On Tap:

How Much Do Your Water Habits Cost?

Out-of-City Residential

The City of Columbia charges its customers **Base Fees** and **Volumetric Fees** for water and sewer use. Volumetric fees are based on 100 cubic foot **Units** (approximately 748 gallons). The first 3 Units of water are included in the water base fee, but all water use is charged a sewer volumetric fee. The City bills water use in full Units and does not round up. Residential customers outside the City of Columbia pay:

- \$11.22 Water Base Fee
- \$4.03 Water Volumetric Fee every full Unit after the first 3 units
- \$11.22 Sewer Base Fee
- \$5.83 Sewer Volumetric Fee every full Unit used

The typical Out-of-City residential customer is charged \$9.86* for each unit above 3 units they use or \$0.0132 per gallon.

Households looking for ways to save on their water bill may find the chart below useful. It details how much common water uses cost at that rate.

* \$4.03 water volumetric fee + \$5.83 sewer volumetric fee = \$9.86

Use	Inefficient Fixture		Efficient Fixture	
	Gallons Per Use	Average Cost	Gallons Per Use	Average Cost
Bath	36 gallons (avg)	\$0.48 per bath	NA	NA
	TIP: Taking showers with low-flow showerheads can reduce the water you use and save money! Just remember to limit your time in the shower.			
15 Minute Shower	5 GPM x 15 min = 75 gallons	\$0.99	2 GPM x 15 min = 30 gallons	\$0.40
	TIP: Replace old showerheads with WaterSense models. Replacing just one showerhead can save an average of 2,900 gallons of water!			
Teeth Brushing	2 GPM x 1 min = 2 gallons	\$0.03	1 GPM x 1 min = 1 gallon	\$0.01
Hand/ Face Washing	2 GPM x 1 min = 2 gallons	\$0.03	1 GPM x 1 min = 1 gallon	\$0.01
Dishwasher	16 gallons	\$0.21	6 gallons (or less)	\$0.08
	TIP: Older dishwashers might use up to 16 gallons per cycle. Newer, EnergyStar models use 6 gallons or less per wash cycle. EnergyStar dishwashers not only save a lot of water but also save electricity!			
Dish Washing (by hand)	3 GPM x 20 min = 60 gallons	\$0.79	1.5GPM x 10 min = 15 gallons	\$0.20
	TIP: You can save water by using more efficient fixtures and reducing the amount of time you run the faucet. Fill a tub or one side of the sink with water that you can use to rinse rather than having the water constantly flowing.			
Clothes Washer	40 gallons	\$0.53	25 gallons	\$0.33
	TIP: If you can, switch to a high-efficiency washer. If not, running only full loads can reduce water use.			
Toilet Flush	3.5 - 7 gallons	Up to \$0.09	1.6 gallons	\$0.02
	TIP: Replace older models with WaterSense labeled toilets and always check for leaks!			
1" of Outdoor Watering: Small Patch (10 ft x 10 ft)	62 gallons	\$0.82	NA	NA
1" of Outdoor Watering: Large Patch (100 ft x 100 ft)	6,230 gallons	\$82.24	NA	NA
Watering a single 100 ft x 100 ft patch to 1" uses more water than an average City of Columbia residential household uses in an entire month!				



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