

Many of us take water for granted. There are millions of people around the world who lack access to clean water and basic sanitation, while we simply have to turn on the tap or flush the toilet. We forget that without clean water, OUR HEALTH, and our quality of life is at risk.

We also forget about the vast infrastructure beneath our feet and the dedication of water and wastewater professionals who work day and night to keep our water clean and sanitation services working.

Every few years the Council re-examines the city's needs for utility infrastructure and adopts Capital Improvement Plans to meet expected consumption trends and maintain compliance with regulations. In 2019, the City hired an outside consultant to review utility operating and capital expenses and make recommendations on future rate changes. An additional goal of a rate study is to produce a recommendation that smooths out the changes in rates as much as possible, minimizing the change in rates in any given year.

At the end of 2019, the Council adopted the consultant's recommended rate structure. This rate structure will allow us to keep our utilities functioning and make the necessary investments to ensure that our customers will not be left without critical utility services.

City of Orting

Contact Information

104 Bridge St. S.

(360) 893-2219

Low Income Rates

Low income utility rates are available to those that have qualified for the Senior/Disabled deferred property tax program through the County Assessors office. Please contact City Hall for the application and County contact information.

About City Utilities: The City of Orting Utilities are a not for profit utility business serving approximately 3,000 customers both inside and outside city limits.



Why Are Our Utility Rates Increasing?



JANUARY 2024

Utility bills for residential customers are estimated to increase by approximately **\$7.64** per month. The base rate of water includes the first 100 cubic feet.

There are many projects planned to allow the City to stay in compliance with our regulators. These include:

- Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) requires the City to lower its water mains under state highway to new WSDOT Standards and remove the old pipes; 20-year projection to complete the project (\$60,000 / year).
- Implementing multiple chlorination systems which create chlorine on-site from salt for water purification. (2024 project \$225,000)
- Calistoga Storm Water & Kansas Street Outfall Improvements (2.79 million).
- Waste Water Treatment Plant Solids Handling (2025 project of approximately \$19.75 million).
- Applications for Senior rates (discount rate based upon income and age or disability) can be found at:

<https://www.piercecountywa.gov/702/Senior-Citizens-Or-People-with-Disabilit>

| WATER | | | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|------------|---------------------|------------|
| Monthly Base Charge | | | | |
| 2021 Water Rates | Inside City Limits | | Outside City Limits | |
| Meter Size | Residential | Commercial | Residential | Commercial |
| 0.75" Meter | \$32.63 | \$32.63 | \$35.89 | \$35.89 |
| 1"-1.5" Meter | \$53.27 | \$53.27 | \$58.60 | \$58.60 |
| 2"-4" Meter | \$75.64 | \$75.64 | \$83.20 | \$83.20 |
| Senior Rate * | \$24.47 | | \$26.92 | |

| Block Rates per 100 cubic feet of water USED | | | | |
|--|-------------|------------|-------------|------------|
| Rate Class | Residential | Commercial | Residential | Commercial |
| Commercial | | \$4.92 | | \$5.41 |
| SFR Block 1: 100-600 CU FT | \$3.54 | | \$3.89 | |
| SFR Block 2: 601-1700 CU FT | \$4.75 | | \$5.23 | |
| SFR Block 3: 1701 + CU FT | \$7.15 | | \$7.87 | |

| | | | | |
|------------------------------------|--------|--|--------|--|
| Senior— Block 1: 0 to 600 CU FT | \$2.66 | | \$2.93 | |
| Senior— Block 2: 601 to 1700 CU FT | \$3.57 | | \$3.93 | |
| Senior— Block 3: 1701 + CU FT | \$5.36 | | \$5.90 | |

Monthly flat rate + usage will determine final charges

| SEWER BASE RATE | | |
|--------------------------|-----------|---------------|
| Customer Class | Base Rate | Flow Rate/ccf |
| Residential | \$69.41 | |
| Residential—Senior Rate | \$52.06 | |
| High Cedars Residential | \$88.15 | |
| Commercial Domestic | | \$7.15 |
| Commercial High Strength | | \$12.67 |

| STORMWATER BASE RATE | | |
|----------------------|---------|---------|
| Per Property | \$26.29 | \$26.29 |

* Senior rate based on tax exemption status for property taxes with Pierce County