



## Clackamas Water Environment Services

# Notice of Upcoming Extra-Strength Fee Changes for Industrial Customers

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### Effective July 1, 2025

Clackamas Water Environment Services (WES) is implementing changes to its extra-strength surcharge fees for industrial customers that discharge wastewater with higher concentrations of Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) and Total Suspended Solids (TSS) than typical wastewater. These changes are based on a recently completed cost-of-service study and will be implemented over three years, beginning July 1, 2025.

### Purpose of Extra-Strength Surcharge Fees

Industrial wastewater that contains higher levels of pollutants requires additional treatment. Facilities that send high-strength organic waste to the sanitary sewer system pay an extra-strength surcharge based on the concentration. The surcharge fee covers the costs of treating high-strength waste sent to treatment plants.

### Why Fees Are Changing

WES' extra-strength surcharge fees were last adjusted in 2017. A cost-of-service study was completed in 2024, which determined that the current fees no longer recover actual treatment costs. Additionally, the study recommended unifying the fees between WES' two rate zones and calculating the surcharges based on a higher threshold limit of 350 mg/l for both BOD and TSS.

### New Fees

	New WES Fee per Pound	Regional Average Fee per Pound
Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD)	\$ 0.3418	\$ 0.6663
Total Suspended Solids (TSS)	\$ 0.2417	\$ 0.7178

Although WES' new fees remain below the regional average for other agencies, the increase will be implemented over the next three fiscal years to allow businesses time to adjust their operations and manage the increased costs.

### Phase-In Schedule by Rate Zone

Effective Date	Rate Zone 1	Rate Zone 2
Current Fee	\$0.1675 BOD / \$0.1450 TSS	\$0.2421 BOD / \$0.1490 TSS
7/1/2025	\$0.2153 BOD / \$0.1945 TSS	\$0.2833 BOD / \$0.1980 TSS
7/1/2026	\$0.2713 BOD / \$0.2168 TSS	\$0.3112 BOD / \$0.2188 TSS
7/1/2027	\$0.3418 BOD / \$0.2417 TSS ( <i>Unified</i> )	\$0.3418 BOD / \$0.2417 TSS ( <i>Unified</i> )

## Estimated Bill Impacts

Bill impacts will depend on customer discharge characteristics and may vary based on how much each customer's bill is composed of extra-strength fee charges versus standard monthly service charges based on flow. Transitioning to a higher limit of 350 mg/L for BOD and TSS as the threshold for the extra-strength surcharge calculation is expected to offset a portion of the increases in the first year.

## Future Fee Increases

WES' fees and charges are typically reviewed on an annual basis. After the phase-in of the new extra-strength fees is complete in fiscal year 2027-28, annual inflationary adjustments are anticipated to help keep pace with rising costs. In addition, periodic cost-of-service studies will be conducted to ensure fees continue to accurately reflect the cost of providing the service.

## Next Steps

This informational notice is being provided to help customers prepare for the upcoming changes. A separate letter will also be sent to each extra-strength customer with an estimate of their specific financial impact.

## Questions

For questions regarding the extra-strength fee changes, please contact Erin Blue, WES Finance Manager, at 503-742-4585 or [eblue@clackamas.us](mailto:eblue@clackamas.us).

For technical assistance or questions regarding the industrial wastewater discharge program, please contact your WES permit manager.

## Extra Strength Charges Regional Fee Survey

Jurisdiction	Biochemical Oxygen Demand		Total Suspended Solids	
	\$/lb	Threshold mg/l	\$/lb	Threshold mg/l
<i>Northwest POTWs:</i>				
Portland (Bureau of Environmental Services)	\$ 0.828000	300	\$ 1.198000	350
Clean Water Services (Washington County)	\$ 0.190000	800	\$ 0.280000	400
Canby	\$ 1.180000	300	\$ 1.180000	300
Gresham	\$ 0.640000	400	\$ 0.630000	400
Salem	\$ 0.409840	300	\$ 0.369580	300
Eugene & Springfield (MWMC)	\$ 1.059715	400	\$ 1.059715	400
Seattle	\$ 0.441900	300	\$ 0.471500	400
Vancouver, Washington	\$ 0.581200	200	\$ 0.554000	200
Simple average - other communities	<u>\$ 0.666332</u>		<u>\$ 0.717849</u>	





For more detail on these fee adjustments, please see the 2024 Wastewater Extra-Strength Charges Cost-of-Service Study on our website at: <https://www.clackamas.us/wes/industrial-user-and-septage-fees>

## Industrial Customer Billing Overview

Industrial wastewater customers are billed on a quarterly basis. As shown in the diagram below, each bill covers three months of service and includes two major components: (1) extra-strength surcharges for biochemical oxygen demand (BOD) and total suspended solids (TSS) when pollutant loads exceed the threshold allowance, and (2) the standard sewer service charge based on flow.

The current threshold for excess BOD and TSS is 219 mg/L with concentrations above that amount subject to extra-strength fees.

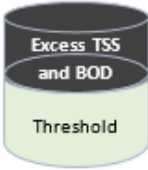



### Current Threshold

	Discharge Parameter	Basis for Charge					Charge	Billed Amount (Quarterly)
<b>Extra-Strength Fees</b> <u>Current</u> Surcharge Threshold   219 mg/L	 Total Suspended Solids (TSS)	Total Pounds TSS (Total Monthly Flow + Average Monthly TSS)	-	Threshold TSS (Total Monthly Flow + 219 mg/L)	=	<b>Excess TSS</b>	• TSS Fee per Pound =	\$ Extra-strength surcharge for TSS
	 Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD)	Total Pounds BOD (Total Monthly Flow + Average Monthly BOD)	-	Threshold BOD (Total Monthly Flow + 219 mg/L)	=	<b>Excess BOD</b>	• BOD Fee per Pound =	\$ Extra-strength surcharge for BOD
<b>Standard Monthly Sewer Service Charges</b>	 Flow	Total Flow expressed in Equivalent Dwelling Units (EDUs)					• Monthly Rate per EDU =	\$ Base Sewer User Rate

## Threshold Change and Its Impact

Effective July 1, 2025, the surcharge threshold for both BOD and TSS will be increased from 219 mg/L to 350 mg/L. As illustrated in the diagram below, this change will result in more of each customer's pollutant load falling within the threshold, reducing the excess pounds of BOD and TSS subject to extra-strength fees.

### NEW Threshold, effective 7/1/2025

	Discharge Parameter	Basis for Charge					Charge	Billed Amount (Quarterly)
<b>Extra-Strength Fees</b> <u>NEW</u> Surcharge Threshold  350 mg/L	 Total Suspended Solids (TSS)	Total Pounds TSS (Total Monthly Flow + Average Monthly TSS)	-	Threshold TSS (Total Monthly Flow + 350 mg/L)	=	<b>Excess TSS</b>	TSS Fee per Pound =	\$ Extra-strength surcharge for TSS
	 Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD)	Total Pounds BOD (Total Monthly Flow + Average Monthly BOD)	-	Threshold BOD (Total Monthly Flow + 350 mg/L)	=	<b>Excess BOD</b>	BOD Fee per Pound =	\$ Extra-strength surcharge for BOD
<b>Standard Monthly Sewer Service Charges</b>	 Flow	Total Flow expressed in Equivalent Dwelling Units (EDUs)					Monthly Rate per EDU =	\$ Base Sewer User Rate

Although the per-pound surcharge rates are increasing, customers will experience a moderated overall bill impact for the first year as the larger threshold allowance will offset a portion of the higher surcharge rates.

**Note:** There will be no change to the calculation for the standard monthly sewer service charge based on flow.