

Del-Co Water Company, Inc.

Pricing Structure Change Effective May 1, 2026

1. What is the effective date for the rate change?

The new rates will be effective May 1, 2026, at the beginning of Del-Co Water's fiscal year.

2. Is Del-Co making another billing structure change?

No. We made the necessary changes last year and do not foresee another billing structure change for some time.

3. What is the basis for annual rate adjustments?

The decision to increase water rates is driven by several factors necessary to maintain and enhance the quality and reliability of your water services. First, the existing water infrastructure requires consistent updates to comply with evolving regulatory requirements and to accommodate changing customer usage patterns. Ongoing maintenance is also essential to ensure a safe, reliable, and uninterrupted service. Finally, the utility is experiencing rising operational costs, a challenge shared by most businesses nationwide. Increased costs include higher energy costs, treatment chemicals, and general inflationary pressure in other operational and maintenance categories.

Rate adjustments are strategic investments in the long-term sustainability of the water system. By implementing smaller, more incremental responsive changes, we are taking steps to manage our water resources and ensure reliable service.

4. How much water does a routine Del-Co Water residential customer use in a month?

50% of residential customers use 4,000 gallons or less per month and the average usage last year was approximately 5,500 gallons per month.

5. I see a lot of lawn irrigation in the warmer months. What can you tell me about the added water use?

A study of Del-Co Water residential customers revealed that approximately one-half will increase their water consumption by no more than 25% in the summer months over their winter use. However, 24% will more than double their water consumption in the summer through irrigation, swimming pools, and outdoor recreation. Heavy summer irrigation stresses the distribution systems and may impact water pressure for routine water use.

6. Is the base monthly fee changing?

Yes. Del-Co Water is updating both base fees and water rates. The fixed monthly cost will increase by \$1 for our most common 5/8" meter. The monthly cost depends on the meter size, and the larger sizes will increase consistently with their size differential.

7. What is a conservation tier?

Del-Co Water established a water use level beyond which we send a pricing signal to customers, encouraging them to conserve water. The 10,000-gallon level is 2 ½ times the median monthly household use.

8. How can I find out how much water my household uses each month?

The simplest way to find out how much water you are using is to look at your most recent monthly bill. Del-Co Water includes your history of water use on each monthly bill.

9. Do you have any tips on saving water to lower my expected cost?

Conservation can be very simple and a great educational opportunity in your home.

- We like our green lawns and sprinkling every *other* day or even one less hour per day will provide savings and likely keep it green. Many lawncare professionals will say it only takes 1" of water per week to keep a lawn healthy.
- Look for the leaking toilet with a little food coloring in the tank. If the toilet bowl changes colors, you may have a leak.
- A 10-minute shower uses as much as 25 gallons of water, and reducing the time or converting to low-flow fixtures are a few ways to add savings.
- Washing a car can take 40 to 100 gallons of water, depending on the length. Consider the frequency of the car washes.