



# BERLIN WATER WORKS

OFFICE OF THE WATER COMMISSION

55 Willow Street, Berlin, NH

## Subject: Municipal Water Rate Increase Announcement

Dear Berlin, NH Residents,

We hope this message finds you well. We are writing to inform you about an upcoming change in our municipal water rates. As a responsible and transparent administration, we want to ensure that you are aware of the reasons behind this adjustment. This adjustment marks the first increase in our water rates in 25 years.

Effective July 01, 2023, there will be a 5% increase in our water rates, and a \$3.00 increase on the base assessment charge per quarter. You will begin to see this increase on your November 2023 quarterly billing. This decision has been made after careful consideration and extensive analysis of our current operational costs, maintenance expenses, and investment requirements. We understand that any change in rates may cause concern, but we believe it is necessary to maintain the high quality and reliability of our water services. The average family of 4 will notice approximately an \$8.00 increase in their quarterly billing, for an average total increase of approximately \$32.00 per year.

The main factors contributing to this rate adjustment are as follows:

1. **Rising Operational Costs:** Over the past few years, due to inflation, we have experienced an increase in the cost of energy, propane, electricity, fuel, chemicals, materials and labor. These rising operational expenses have put a strain on our budget, making it necessary to adjust our rates accordingly to maintain financial stability and continue providing reliable water services.
2. **Infrastructure Maintenance and Upgrades:** Our water distribution system is aging, and regular maintenance and infrastructure upgrades are essential to ensure efficient operations and avoid service disruptions. The increased rates will help fund these crucial improvements, including the replacement of outdated pipes, pumps, and treatment facilities.
3. **Compliance with Regulatory Standards:** The water industry is subject to stringent regulatory standards to ensure the safety and quality of the water supplied to our residents. To meet these standards, we must invest in advanced treatment technologies and monitoring systems. The rate adjustment will assist in covering the costs associated with compliance with these regulations.

We understand that affordability is a concern for many residents. To address this, we have included a link from the NH Department of Environmental Services, Drinking Water Bureau to educational information on responsible water usage and measures which can be used to promote water conservation and efficiency.

<https://www.des.nh.gov/resource-center/publications?keys=efficiency&purpose=&subcategory=Water+Conservation>

We value your trust and remain committed to delivering safe, reliable, and sustainable water services to our community. We appreciate your understanding and support as we strive to improve our infrastructure and ensure a better future for all residents.

Thank you for your cooperation and continued support.

Sincerely,

Steven Lefebvre  
Superintendent, Berlin Water Works

**CITY OF BERLIN WATER WORKS  
FEBRUARY, MAY, AUGUST & NOVEMBER QUARTERLY RATE CHARGES  
RESIDENTIAL and COMMERCIAL CUSTOMERS**

## QUARTERLY RATES

The following rates shall be used beginning July 01, 2023 quarterly billing period and shall remain in effect until changed by the Board of Water Commissioners. New usage categories effective January 8, 2014.

**WATER CONSUMPTION CHARGES:**

Cost per 100 CUBIC FEET			
1	ZERO	-	
2	100	-	600
3	601	-	1,600
4	1,601	-	3,500
5	3,501	-	4,500
6	4,501	-	6,000
7	6,001	-	15,000
8	15,001	-	40,000
9	40,001	-	3,500,000
10	3,500,001	-	14,400,000
11	14,400,001	-	16,800,000
12	16,800,001	-	20,460,000
13	20,460,001	-	And over

**ASSESSMENT CHARGES:**

.00	\$30.00	
\$31.50	\$30.00	
\$2.77	\$30.00 plus \$3.00 for Each 100 cubic feet Above 600 cubic feet.	
\$2.17		
\$2.14		
\$2.08		
\$2.03		
\$1.91		
\$1.74		
		\$0.47
		\$0.47
	\$0.95	
	\$1.42	

\* Based on 90 Day (3 Month) Quarter

**FIRE PROTECTION CHARGE:**

Customers with water usage and 1 dwelling unit will not have a separate Fire Protection Charge.

<b>EXAMPLE:</b>	1 dwelling unit	\$0.00 (single family house or store)
	2 dwelling units	\$5.00
	5 dwelling units	\$20.00
	15 dwelling units maximum	\$70.00

**SPRINKLER HEAD FEE:** .10 cents per fixture head per quarter

**CUSTOMER CHARGE:** \$2.05 per Water Account for Customers with no water usage.

**HOW TO COMPUTE YOUR WATER BILL:** If you have a one-family dwelling and use ZERO cubic feet, bill is \$30.00 for Assessment, \$5.00 for Fire Protection and \$2.05 customer charge = \$37.05 per quarter. (Up from \$34.05)

If you have a one-family dwelling and use 500 cubic feet, bill is \$31.50 for Water, \$30.00 for Assessment Charge = \$61.50 per quarter. (Up from \$57.00)

If you have a one family dwelling and use 1,000 cubic feet, bill is \$42.58 (\$31.50 + (4 x \$2.77) for Water, \$42.00 (\$30 + (4 \* \$3.00)) for Assessment = \$84.58 per quarter. (Up from \$79.56)

If you have a one-family dwelling and use 2,000 cubic feet, bill is \$67.88 (\$31.50+ (10 x \$2.77) + (4x \$2.17)) for Water, \$72.00 (\$30.00+(14 \* \$3.00)) for Assessment = \$139.88 per quarter. (Up from \$133.68)

If you have a one-family dwelling and use 3,200 cubic feet, bill is \$93.92, (\$31.50+ (10 x \$2.77) + 16 x \$2.17)) for Water, \$108.00 (\$30.00+(26 \* \$3.00)) Assessment = \$201.92 per quarter. (Up from \$194.52)

**NOTE:** For buildings with more than one dwelling unit, add \$5.00 per dwelling unit to the above.

**EXAMPLE:** If you have a two-family dwelling unit and your consumption is 3,200 cubic feet, bill would be \$93.92 for Water, \$108.00 for Assessment, \$5.00 for Fire Protection = \$206.92 per quarter. (Up from 199.52)

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10	3,500,001	- 14,400,000
11	14,400,001	- 16,800,000
12	16,800,001	- 20,460,000
13	20,460,001	- And over

**ASSESSMENT CHARGES:**

.00	\$30.00
Cubic Feet	\$30.00
(Next 1,000)	\$2.77
(Next 1,900)	\$2.17
(Next 1,000)	\$2.14
(Next 1,500)	\$2.08
(Next 9,000)	\$2.03
(Next 25,000)	\$1.91
(Next 3,460,000)	\$1.74
	\$0.47
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	\$0.95
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\$30.00 plus \$3.00 for Each 100 cubic feet Above 600 cubic feet.

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