



# ONEIDA COUNTY SEWER DISTRICT RATE SCHEDULE

## Effective January 1, 2023

**This rate schedule will apply to all bills issued on or after April 1, 2023.  
It will remain in effect until modified by the Oneida County Board of Legislators**

### A. RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER FEES

#### 1. Metered Consumption

Customers will be charged a wastewater treatment fee based on metered water usage. The rate charged will be \$6.90 per 1000 gallons of water consumed. The customer will receive a bill for these services through contract billing services provided by the Mohawk Valley Water Authority, the Sauquoit Water District or the Clayville Water District. The Oneida County Sewer District (Sewer District) wastewater treatment fee can be calculated using the following equation.

$$\text{Billable Amount} = \frac{(\text{cubic feet of water consumed}) \times (7.481 \text{ gallons/cubic foot}) \times (\$6.90)}{(1000 \text{ gallons})}$$

The Sewer District does not install, maintain, or read any water or sewer discharge meters and, as such, is not directly responsible for errors in billing due to malfunction of these meters. The Mohawk Valley Water Authority, Sauquoit Water District, or Clayville Water District have been authorized to adjust Sewer District wastewater treatment billing at their discretion if an error caused by a faulty water meter or an incorrect water meter reading is discovered.

#### 2. Unmetered Consumption

Customers who do not have water meters will have a usage calculated based on an estimated water consumption rate of 50 gallons per person per day. The maximum charge per household will be based on 200 gallons per day. The rate charged will be \$6.90 per 1000 gallons of water consumed. The customer will receive a bill directly from the Sewer District for these services. The Sewer District wastewater treatment fee can be calculated using the following equation.

$$\text{Billable Amount} = \frac{(\text{days in billing period}) \times (50 \text{ gallons/ day}) \times (\text{number of people}) \times (\$6.90)}{(1000 \text{ gallons})}$$

Customers covered under this section of the rate schedule will be required to complete a form certifying as to the number of persons occupying the property serviced by the account. Customers who do not submit the required certification form will be charged the maximum household rate of 200 gallons per day. Customers who intentionally misrepresent the number of occupants per household can be charged with a Class A misdemeanor pursuant to Section 210.45 of the Penal Law. Furthermore, restitution will be required as per Section D-3 of this rate schedule.

#### 3. Sauquoit Creek Basin Surcharge

In addition to the charges listed in sections 1 and 2, customers whose discharge is tributary to the Sauquoit Creek Pumping Station, except the Village of Whitesboro, will be assessed an additional surcharge to pay for capital expenditures and system repairs associated with the NYSDEC Consent Order. Like regular residential fees, the surcharge is based on metered or unmetered water consumption as listed in the formulas below. The rate charged will remain at \$1.05 per 1000 gallons of water consumed. The customer will receive a bill for these services through contract billing services provided by the Mohawk Valley Water Authority, the Sauquoit Water District, and the Clayville Water District or directly from the Oneida County Sewer District.

$$\text{Billable Amount} = \frac{(\text{cubic feet of water consumed}) \times (7.481 \text{ gallons/cubic foot}) \times (\$1.05)}{(\text{metered}) \quad (1000 \text{ gallons})}$$



$$\text{Billable Amount} = \frac{(\text{days in billing period}) \times (50 \text{ gallons/ day}) \times (\text{number of people}) \times (\$1.05)}{(1000 \text{ gallons})}$$

(non-metered)

#### **4. Village of Whitesboro Surcharge**

In addition to the charges listed in sections 1 and 2, customers who reside in the Village of Whitesboro, will be assessed an additional surcharge to pay for capital expenditures and system repairs associated with the NYSDEC Consent Order as per Village Board Resolution dated July 13, 2015. Like regular residential fees, the surcharge is

based on metered or unmetered water consumption as listed in the formulas below. The rate charged will remain at \$2.30 per 1000 gallons of water consumed. The customer will receive a bill for these services through contract billing services provided by the Mohawk Valley Water Authority or directly from the Oneida County Sewer District.

$$\text{Billable Amount} = \frac{(\text{cubic feet of water consumed}) \times (7.481 \text{ gallons/cubic foot}) \times (\$2.30)}{(1000 \text{ gallons})}$$

(metered)

$$\text{Billable Amount} = \frac{(\text{days in billing period}) \times (50 \text{ gallons/ day}) \times (\text{number of people}) \times (\$2.30)}{(1000 \text{ gallons})}$$

(non-metered)

### **B. INDUSTRIAL CUSTOMER FEES**

#### **1. Basic Rate**

Industrial customers will be charged a fee based on metered water consumption and be subject to the same rates as residential customers. In addition to these fees, industrial customers who require a permit under Oneida County Sewer Use Rules and Regulations will be charged an annual permit fee of \$660 to cover monitoring and administrative costs. Additional or modified charges may apply as detailed in subsequent sections of this schedule.

#### **2. High Strength Wastewater**

Industrial customers who discharge high strength wastewater, as defined by the Sewer District, will be subject to fees in addition to those calculated using the basic rate. A surcharge will apply to discharges with total suspended solids (TSS) exceeding 290 mg/l and/or Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) exceeding 330 mg/l. This surcharge will be \$0.02 per pound of TSS and/or BOD that exceed the limits as stated in this section. If insufficient BOD data exists to accurately determine the surcharge, Chemical Oxygen Demand (COD) can be substituted for BOD. In this case, the surcharge will be \$0.02 per pound of COD that exceeds 350 mg/l.

#### **3. Federal Categorical Pretreatment Standards**

Federal Categorical Pretreatment Standards have additional monitoring and administrative cost associated with them. Accordingly, an annual permit fee of \$1,100 will be charged to industrial customers who are subject to these standards.

#### **4. Additional Sampling Fees**

A fee of \$200 per sample may be charged if more than four (4) twenty-four-hour composite samples are needed on an annual basis to characterize the discharge of an industrial customer.

#### **5. Groundwater Remediation Projects**

Groundwater cleanup and site remediation projects approved by the Sewer District for discharge directly to the sewer system will be charged the basic rate, as indicated in Section B-1, for wastewater generated. An annual permit fee of \$100 will be assessed to cover monitoring and administrative fees. The customer will be required to provide accurate discharge data on a semi-annual basis for billing purposes.



## **C. FEES FOR WASTEWATER HAULED DIRECTLY TO THE TREATMENT PLANT**

### **1. Basic Rate**

Wastewater haulers who discharge directly to the wastewater treatment plant will be charged based on the actual amount of wastewater contained in each load. This fee will be \$0.08 per gallon of wastewater delivered. In addition, an annual permit fee of \$100 will be charged to cover monitoring and administrative costs. Additional or modified charges may apply as detailed in subsequent sections of this schedule.

### **2. Domestic Wastewater**

Haulers of seepage, cesspool, and portable toilet wastewater, containing only household type wastewater, will be subject to all charges as detailed in Section C-1 of this schedule.

### **3. Non-Domestic Wastewater**

Non-domestic wastewater, as approved by the Sewer District on a case-by-case basis, will be subject to all charges as detailed in Section C-1 of this schedule. In addition, the costs incurred by the Sewer District for contract laboratory services, plus 10%, will be billed to the permit holder for analytical analysis required by the Sewer District to accurately characterize the wastewater.

### **4. Municipal or Private Sewage Treatment Systems**

Wastewater from municipal and private sewage treatment systems, as approved by the Sewer District on a case-by-case basis, will be subject to the charges as detailed in Section C-1 of this schedule.

### **5. Low Solids Wastewater**

Low solids wastewater, as approved by the Sewer District on a case-by-case basis, will be charged \$0.04 per gallon based on the actual amount of wastewater delivered. In addition, the cost incurred by the Sewer District for contract laboratory services, plus 10%, will be billed to the permit holder for analytical analysis required by the Sewer District to accurately characterize the wastewater.

### **6. Landfill Leachate**

Landfill Leachate, as approved by the Sewer District on a case-by-case basis, will be charged \$0.02 per gallon based on the actual amount of wastewater delivered. In addition, the cost incurred by the Sewer District for contract laboratory services, plus 10%, will be billed to the permit holder for analytical analysis required by the Sewer District to accurately characterize the wastewater.

### **7. Food Waste Slurry**

Food waste slurry from the Oneida- Herkimer Solid Waste Authority that is fed directly to the anaerobic digesters will be charged \$0.02 per gallon based on the actual amount of slurry delivered.

### **8. Sanitary Sewer Cleaning Debris**

Upon prior authorization from the Sewer District, debris from vactor trucks used to clean public sanitary sewers within the Oneida County Sewer District service area may be accepted at the Water Pollution Control Plant. Haulers will be charged the Sewer District's most current rate (\$/ton) for solids disposal at the Oneida Herkimer Solid Waste Authority's (OHSWA) landfill in Ava, NY, plus scale fees. The Sewer District has the right to limit the amount of sanitary sewer cleaning debris that it will accept.



## **D. OTHER CHARGES AND ADJUSTMENTS**

### **1. Late Charges**

A late charge of 10% will be charged to all accounts that are not paid by the date they are due. This fee will be assessed at the start of every billing cycle and only imposed on newly accrued late balances from the previous billing cycle.

### **2. Delinquent Charges**

All accounts that are overdue after October 31 and have a balance greater than or equal to \$50 will be declared delinquent and added to the tax rolls of the appropriate municipality. Once the delinquent accounts are transmitted to the Oneida County Department of Finance for processing, that department will be responsible for the collection activities associated with these accounts. Once declared delinquent, an additional charge of 10% will be assessed to the account. Delinquent charges are in addition to any other charges, including late charges.

Delinquent charges will be equally divided between the Oneida County Sewer District and the Oneida County Department of Finance as compensation for the cost of processing the delinquency. If the account is re-levied on the tax rolls, the delinquent charge will rise to 12% with the Oneida County Sewer District receiving 5% and the Oneida County Finance Department receiving 7% as compensation for the cost of processing the delinquency.

### **3. Uncompensated Use of Sewer District Services**

Sewer customers who have been found utilizing Sewer District wastewater treatment services without paying for them will be assessed fees for these services. The fee will be based on actual meter readings or a consumption rate of 200 gallons per day for unmetered customers and the user fees in effect during the time the services were being utilized. Charges will be calculated based on the amount of time the service was being utilized but in no case shall it exceed 6 years.

It is the responsibility of the sewer customer to provide the Sewer District adequate information so that the length of time service was rendered can be established. The Sewer District may, at its own discretion, conduct an investigation to establish the length of time service was rendered and bill the customer accordingly.

### **4. Refunds**

Current customers who have been incorrectly billed for Sewer District wastewater treatment services may be entitled to a refund. The customer must petition the Sewer District in writing to have a refund considered. The refund will be based on the fees in effect during the time services were being utilized and will be calculated based on actual billing records. The Sewer District will only consider refund requests from the current property owners, for the time they have incorrectly paid wastewater treatment fees. In no case shall the refund period exceed 6 years prior to the point at which the Sewer District was made aware of the error.

It is the responsibility of the customer to provide the Sewer District with adequate information to determine the amount of the refund. The Sewer District may, at its own discretion, investigate to establish the length of time service was incorrectly billed and base the refund to the customer accordingly.

Refunds for charges occurring in the current year will be processed as a credit to the customer's account. If the refunds encompass more than one year, or an active account no longer exists, the customer will receive reimbursement directly from the Sewer District once the appropriate documents have been filed and processed by the County. If the refund is associated with a property that has a County tax lien, the refund will not be processed until this tax lien is satisfied.

The Commissioner of Water Quality and Water Pollution Control, upon thorough review of the documentation, may approve refunds up to \$2,500 per account. The Oneida County Board of Legislators must approve refunds over this amount.



## 5. Adjustments

Customers may request an adjustment to an account for abnormal water consumption that was not discharged to the sewer system. Adjustments will be considered only if water consumption records indicate an abnormal pattern of water use and if physical evidence exists to support the adjustment claim. The customer must petition the Sewer District in writing within 180 days of the occurrence of the event causing abnormal water consumption to have an adjustment considered. The amount of adjustment will be at the discretion of the Sewer District, based on water consumption reports provided to the Sewer District by the Mohawk Valley Water Authority, the Sauquoit Water District, or the Clayville Water District.

Customers may request adjustments to an account for water consumed in industrial or manufacturing processes. The customer must petition the Sewer District in writing to have such an adjustment considered. Supporting documentation must accompany the petition. The Sewer District may require additional engineering analysis to support a petition. The cost of this analysis is the responsibility of the petitioner.

The Sewer District may, at its own discretion, investigate the legitimacy of an adjustment claim, including a physical inspection of the property. Normal water consuming activities such as routine swimming pool maintenance, car or house washing, and lawn or garden watering will not be considered for an adjustment. Any excessive use of water for irrigation or other non-sewered purposes may be considered for adjustment only if measured by a separate water meter installed at the customer's expense for the purpose of measuring non-sewered water usage.

The Commissioner of Water Quality and Water Pollution Control, upon thorough review of the documentation, may approve adjustments up to \$10,000 per account for each valid request. The Oneida County Board of Legislators must approve adjustments over this amount.