

**2023 - 2024 CITY COMPARISON
RESIDENTIAL**

Monthly water and sewer charges based on:
3/4" meter, 600 cf water, 600 cf sewer

City	2023 Water rate	2023 Sewer rate	Total
Missoula	\$37.50	\$17.95	\$55.45
Kalispell	\$25.61	\$50.39	\$76.00
Bozeman	\$35.37	\$39.26	\$74.63
Butte	\$82.17	\$28.50	\$110.67
Helena	\$29.60	\$29.77	\$59.37
Billings	\$31.73	\$37.53	\$69.26
Great Falls--current	\$20.18	\$26.29	\$46.47

City	2024 Water rate	2024 Sewer rate	Total	Notes
Missoula	\$39.35	\$19.57	\$58.92	Res water base fee increased from \$25.02 to \$26.27 and the consumption increased from \$2.08/cf to \$2.18/cf. Sometime during Covid, Missoula's sewer model changed from a semi-annual fee plus an admin charge to a SFR base rate plus a consumption charge. The semi-annual rate was \$83.40 for 6 months or \$13.90/mo plus an admin fee of \$6.89. In 2023, the sewer rate included a base fee of \$16.63 plus \$.22/cf, so the overall sewer rate decreased in 2023. The 2024 sewer base fee is \$18.13 plus \$.24/cf.
Kalispell	\$32.07	\$53.89	\$85.96	Res water base fee increased from \$9.99 to \$12.64 and the consumption charge increased from \$2.99 per thousand gal to \$3.76 per thousand gal. The monthly meter fee increased from \$1.32 to \$1.67 and the monthly hosting fee remains the same at \$.89. Res sewer base fee increased from \$14.22 to \$15.21 and the consumption charge increased from \$8.06 per thousand gal to \$8.62 per thousand gal. The rate was converted to cf for comparison.
Bozeman	\$39.63	\$43.95	\$83.58	Res water base fee increased from \$16.17 to \$18.11. The single family charge increased from \$4.80 to \$5.38 per month. The consumption charge also increased from \$2.40/cf to \$2.69/cf. Res sewer base fee increased from \$19.58 to \$21.93 and the consumption charge increased from \$3.28/cf to \$3.67cf.
Butte	\$82.17	\$28.50	\$110.67	Butte water rates have not changed. There is a base fee of \$46.43 plus consumption of \$6.494/cf for the first 500 cf and \$3.274/cf for the next 500 cf. Sewer rates have not changed, either. Res sewer is based on a yearly fee of \$342/yr or \$28.50/mo and is charged as a property tax.
Helena	\$29.60	\$30.94	\$60.54	Res water fees have not changed. The base fee stayed the same at \$9.26 and the consumption stayed the same at \$3.39/cf. Res sewer base fee increased from \$9.73 to \$10.12 and the consumption increased from \$3.34/cf to \$3.47/cf.
Billings	\$31.73	\$37.53	\$69.26	Billings has not increased rates so res water and sewer remain the same. The water base fee stayed the same at \$8.45 and the consumption is still \$3.88/cf. Res sewer base fee is still \$7.05 and the consumption is \$5.08/cf.
Great Falls--proposed	\$23.20	\$28.91	\$52.11	Staff proposes a 15% increase for water rates and a 10% increase for sewer rates. Great Falls remains the least expensive out of the major cities in the state for total residential water and sewer services.

**2023 - 2024 CITY COMPARISON
COMMERCIAL**

Monthly water and sewer charges based on:
1" meter, 2,400 cf water, 2,400 cf sewer

City	2023 Water rate	2023 Sewer rate	Total
Missoula	\$89.85	\$50.10	\$139.95
Kalispell	\$66.59	\$158.91	\$225.50
Bozeman	\$85.38	\$117.99	\$203.37
Butte	\$153.06	\$73.30	\$226.36
Helena	\$113.56	\$117.49	\$231.05
Billings	\$88.51	\$130.92	\$219.43
Great Falls--current	\$63.21	\$83.84	\$147.05

City	2024 Water rate	2024 Sewer rate	Total	Notes
Missoula	\$112.16	\$54.71	\$166.87	Comm water base rate increased from \$39.93 to 59.84 and the consumption increased from \$2.08/cf to \$2.188/cf. Comm sewer base rate increased from \$5.94 to \$6.47 and the consumption charge increased from \$1.84/cf to \$2.01/cf.
Kalispell	\$83.58	\$169.95	\$253.53	Comm water base fee increased from \$9.99 to \$12.64 and the consumption charge increased from \$2.99 per thousand gal to \$3.76 per thousand gal. The monthly meter fee increased from \$2.04 to \$2.56 and the monthly hosting fee remains the same at \$.89. Comm sewer base fee increased from \$14.22 to \$15.21 and the consumption charge increased from \$8.06 per thousand gal to \$8.62 per thousand gal. The rate was converted to cf for comparison.
Bozeman	\$112.43	\$132.16	\$244.59	Comm water base fee increased from \$21.42 to \$23.99. The commercial fee increased from \$4.92 to \$5.52 per month. The consumption charge also increased from \$2.40/cf to \$2.69/cf for the first 600 cf and \$3.71/cf for 600-2500 cf. There was not a tiered water consumption rate last year, which accounts for the significant increase in the overall water charge from 2023 to 2024. Comm sewer base fee increased from \$20.07 to \$22.48 and the consumption charge increased from \$4.08/cf to \$4.57/cf.
Butte	\$153.06	\$73.30	\$226.36	Butte water rates have not changed. There is a base fee of \$61.20 plus consumption of \$6.494/cf for the first 500 cf, \$3.274/cf for the next 500 cf, and \$3.073/cf for the next 4,000 cf. Comm sewer is charged on the property tax bill and is based on total water consumption for the year. It is calculated at .03054008/cf.
Helena	\$113.56	\$122.20	\$235.76	Comm water fees have not changed. The base fee stayed the same at \$15.40 and the consumption charge stayed the same at \$4.09/cf. Comm sewer base fee increased from \$9.73 to \$10.12 and the consumption charge increased from \$4.49/cf to \$4.67/cf.
Billings	\$88.51	\$130.92	\$219.43	Billings has not increased rates so comm water and sewer remain the same. The water base fee stayed the same at \$9.55 and the consumption is still \$3.29/cf. Comm sewer base fee is still \$9.00 and the consumption is \$5.08/cf.
Great Falls--proposed	\$72.69	\$92.22	\$164.91	Staff proposes a 15% increase for water rates and a 10% increase for sewer rates. Great Falls remains the least expensive out of the major cities in the state for total commercial water and sewer services, although Missoula charges only \$1.96 more per month for a 1" meter, 2400 cf of water, and 2400 cf for sewer.