



IMPORTANT SPECIAL WATER ISSUE

Water Conservation Rate Schedule

The Board had adopted an annual water Rate Order that is effective every summer between the months of May through September. The following chart will explain the schedule as it currently is calculated.

WATER RATES

	Summer Rate Sechedule	Remainder Year Rate Schedule
Residential	\$8 for first 8K gallons	\$12.50 for first 10K gallons
	\$2.50 per 1K gallons for 8K to 20K gallons	\$1.25 per 1K gallon for the next 10K gallons
	\$3 per 1K gallons over 20K gallons	\$1.50 per 1K gallons over 20K gallons
	Minimum Charge of \$8.00	Minimum Charge of \$12.50
Multi-Family/ Commercial	\$8 for first 8K gallons	\$15 for first 10K gallons
	\$2.50 per 1K gallons for 8K to 20K gallons	\$1.50 per gallon thereafter
	\$3.00 per 1K gallons over 20K gallons	
	Minimum Charge of \$8.00	Minimum Charge of \$15.00
Parks and Recreation	\$0.90 per 1K gallons	\$0.45 per 1K gallon

Sewer service charges remain unchanged at this time.

RESIDENTIAL COST COMPARISON

Monthly Gallons	Summer Scheddule	Remainder Year
8,000	\$ 8.00 water <u>10.00 sewer</u> \$18.00 total	\$12.50 water <u>10.00 sewer</u> \$22.50 total
15,000	\$25.50 water <u>10.00 sewer</u> \$35.50 total	\$18.75 water <u>10.00 sewer</u> \$28.75 total
25,000	\$53.00 water <u>10.00 sewer</u> \$63.00 total	\$32.50 water <u>10.00 sewer</u> \$42.50 total

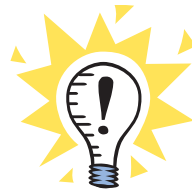
COMMERCIAL COST COMPARISON

<u>Monthly Gallons</u>	<u>Summer Scheddule</u>	<u>Remainder Year</u>
25,000	\$53.00 water <u>18.55 sewer</u> \$71.55 total	\$37.50 water <u>15.00 sewer</u> \$52.50 total
50,000	\$25.50 water <u>10.00 sewer</u> \$35.50 total	\$18.75 water <u>10.00 sewer</u> \$28.75 total
25,000	\$128.00 water <u>44.80 sewer</u> \$172.80 total	\$75.00 water <u>26.25 sewer</u> \$101.25 total

PARKS AND RECREATION COST COMPARISON

<u>Monthly Gallons</u>	<u>Summer Scheddule</u>	<u>Remainder Year</u>
100,000	\$90.00 total	\$45.00 total

WATER SAVING IDEAS



Drinking Water

- Keep a jug of drinking water in the refrigerator to avoid running the water until it is cool. Recycle left over drinking water.
- Make only the amount of coffee or tea you are going to drink.
- Use ice cubes to cool down water.
- Don't let waiters in restaurants to bring you water unless you request it.
- Turn off the water while you are brushing your teeth, washing your hands or scraping the dishes.

Kitchen Sink

- Use a vegetable brush for fruits and vegetables using a hand sprayer sparingly with short bursts of water.
- Install low kitchen consumption (2.2gpm) faucet aerators.
- Plan ahead to thaw frozen foods and ice trays in the refrigerator when possible.
- If necessary to force thaw food, place in bowl of cold water. Do not run faucet.
- Scrape dishes and rinse all at once. Soak pots and pans overnight if very dirty.



Household Cleaning

- Fill the dishwasher and clothes washer with soiled dishes and clothes. Washing partial loads wastes electricity, water and money.
- Use least possible amount of soap or cleaning agent to cut down on rinse water and presoak.
- Hand wash delicate clothes efficiently by soaking well with smallest amount of low sudsing detergent. Presoak very dirty items overnight.

Bathroom

- When shaving, quickly rinse razor, or use an electric razor to save water, soap, and blades.
- For brushing teeth, use a cup to rinse out mouth.
- A full tub holds up to 50 gallons of water, you can bathe adequately with one quarter as much.
- Clean tub prior to getting out of it.



Outdoors

- Do not over water your plants or lawn.
- Check your sprinkler system settings to avoid overspray onto driveways, streets and sidewalks.
- Consider adding rainfall detection controls to you sprinkler system.

REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE UPDATE

As part of the ongoing repairs and preventive maintenance program in MUD 208, the Board of Directors has approved the following projects:



1. Water Plant Facelift

The fence around the perimeter of the Water Plant located on Shangrila will be repaired and painted within the next month to repair cracked panels and leaning posts.

2. Water Storage Tank Painting

As our water system ages, the district is systematically evaluating and completing repairs as necessary. This includes the cleaning and repainting of the interior and exterior of the water storage tanks.

3. Underground Sewer Lines

To prevent inflow and infiltration problems and major sewer line failures, the district is taking a proactive approach and repairing underground sanitary sewer lines that have been televised and have been determined to need repairs. This project will continue for the next two years.

4. Meter Replacement Program

As water meters age, the district is replacing residential water meters. This will insure accurate meter readings.

WATER WEBSITES

For further information concerning MUD 208 and other Texas water issues, access the following websites:

Harris County Mud 208-www.go-texan.com/MUD208

Texas Water Resources Institute- twri.tamu.edu

Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission- www.tnrcc.state.tx.us

Texas Water Development Board- www.twbd.state.tx.us

Lower Colorado River Authority- www.lcra.org

American Water Works Association- www.awwa.org

Environmental Protection Agency- www.epa.gov

EPA children's website with related activities- www.epa.gov/kids



TNRCC PROMOTES XERISCAPING FOR WATER CONSERVATION

Setting out flowers and other flora in the heat of summer is not such a hot idea, but you can use a Xeriscaping technique any time of year to prepare your yard for planting, and save water. No matter what the season or where you live, reducing the turf area of your lawn can drastically cut your outdoor watering needs.

“The summer is a good time to plan for fall and spring planting,” said Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission compost specialist Bill Carter. “By reducing the turf area of your lawn in the summer, you can cut back on watering almost immediately, which is especially important with the drought, and make way for native plants and mulches that are just as attractive as a thick, lush lawn.”

It's estimated that half the water used by homeowners goes to the landscape. By implementing the following Xeriscaping technique, you can drastically reduce your outdoor watering needs and, once you're finished, spend more time enjoying the beauty of your lawn and less time mowing.

1. Scalp the area you want to Xeriscape by going over it with your mower on the lowest blade setting. Lop off what's left of the grass blades with a string edger. Throw the clippings into your compost pile.
2. Cover the scalped area with a layer of mature compost and another layer of manure.
3. Grab a stack of newspapers from your recycling bin and spread a layer about 15 pages thick onto the manure. This kills most grasses. Some hardy grasses like Bermuda have to be rooted out. They can survive until the paper decomposes and grow through 8 or more inches of mulch.
4. Spread a healthy layer of mulch onto the newspaper. Avoid walking on it and puncturing the newspaper layer.
5. Relax for a month or so until the time is right to set out your plants. If you're not interested in planting, you can leave the area covered with mulch year-round.

6. When you're ready to plant in the fall or spring, pin-point the spots where you want your plants to go and scrape back the mulch to the newspaper layer. Be sure to select low water-demand plants. Native or adapted plants generally do better than those brought in from other areas. Most Texas nurseries can help you select plants native to your area.

7. Slice an "X" into the newspaper, dig an appropriately sized hole, and add water and the plant.

8. Return the soil to the plant base and add more water. For larger plants, shrubs and trees:

Mix the soil you removed with half that amount of compost. Use the mixture to fill in around the plant's roots or root ball. Dig any of the leftover mixture into the top 2 inches of soil surrounding the plant and add more water. To facilitate root growth, be sure to loosen the soil as far as the plant's "drip line" (the outer reach of its branches) and as deep as the plant's hole.

Replace the newspaper and mulch cover and add a raised ring of mulch that peaks just outside the drip line. Do not pile mulch against the plant's trunk or stem.

9. Water periodically according to your plants' needs. Whatever goes in the ground, you won't be watering near as much as you would a thirsty turf grass.

10. Enjoy lower water bills, less mowing and a beautifully Xeriscaped yard.

For more information on this topic, contact the Texas Natural Resource and Conservation Commission or visit their website at www.tnrcc.state.tx.us.



COPPERFIELD JOINS WEST HARRIS COUNTY REGIONAL WATER AUTHORITY

The participants of the Copperfield Water Consortium, eight MUDs, including MUD 208 are negotiating an agreement with the West Harris County Regional Water Authority, (WHCRWA) to provide for the construction and financing of transmission lines for providing surface water to Copperfield. This highly weighed decision is an effort to obtain future water supply at the most cost effective rates, and to join their Groundwater Reduction Plan, (GRP), therefore complying with the Subsidence District's Regulatory Plan for Area 3 to reduce ground water consumption by 30% in January of 2010, 70% by 2020 and 80% by 2030.

A water line project is being coordinated with the WHCRWA at this time to bring this additional water supply to the Copperfield area. MUD 208's Engineer, Turner, Collie & Braden, has begun surveying, right-of-way acquisition and other preliminary work to evaluate the capacity of the infrastructure necessary to accommodate the new water line alignment.

The District will continue to own and operate its current two water wells that supply groundwater to residents.

THE NEW LOOK OF YOUR WATER BILL

MUD 208 recently approved the new full-page water bill format shown below. Some important and helpful items appear on the new bill. The Account Summary section (1.) shows the actual usage period, including the previous month's reading and the current month's reading. It also illustrates the current usage in addition to the previous year's usage if it is available. The Rate Section (2.) shows the rates that your bill has been calculated on. The water rate section will change when the summer rates go into effect (May-September usage periods). The Account Breakdown Section (3.) shows exactly what is being charged based on the water and sewer rates listed to the left in addition to the recently added West Harris County Regional Water Authority Fee and the TNRCC state assessment fee. A very important new section on your bill is the yellow message area (4.). This area will be used to remind residents of important information regarding water usage, conservation, community service information and any other important water and sewer issues. MUD 208 hopes the new bill format will provide better and more useful information to its customers.

HARRIS CO. M.U.D. #208 P.O. BOX 842115 HOUSTON, TX 77284	Billing Questions: 281-861-6215 Service & Repair: 281-861-6215																																	
MONTHLY WATER BILLING SUMMARY																																		
CUSTOMER NAME 12345 SUNLIGHT HOUSTON, TX 77095 Account Number: 38-12345-00 Service Address: 12345 Sunlight	(1.) ACCOUNT SUMMARY Water Usage from: 04/26 To 05/26 Current Read: 1125.00 Previous Read: 1130.00 Current Usage: 5000 Gallons Usage last year: 6000 Gallons																																	
(2.) RESIDENTIAL <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 30%;">Water</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>0 To 10,000</td> <td>\$12.50</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Next 10,000</td> <td>1.25/1000</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Thereafter</td> <td>1.50/1000</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="3"> </td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sewer</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Flat Fee</td> <td>\$10.00</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	Water			0 To 10,000	\$12.50		Next 10,000	1.25/1000		Thereafter	1.50/1000					Sewer			Flat Fee	\$10.00		<table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 60%;">PREVIOUS BALANCE</td> <td style="width: 40%;">\$0.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">(3.)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Water</td> <td>12.50</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sewer</td> <td>10.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Regional Water Authority</td> <td>.90</td> </tr> <tr> <td>State Assessment</td> <td>11</td> </tr> </table>	PREVIOUS BALANCE	\$0.00	(3.)		Water	12.50	Sewer	10.00	Regional Water Authority	.90	State Assessment	11
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(4.) Message Area: This space will provide important information.	<table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 60%;">AMOUNT DUE NOW</td> <td style="width: 40%;">\$23.51</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2"> </td> </tr> <tr> <td>Late fee after 6/26/02</td> <td>2.25</td> </tr> <tr> <td>After due date 6/26/02</td> <td>\$ 25.76</td> </tr> </table>	AMOUNT DUE NOW	\$23.51			Late fee after 6/26/02	2.25	After due date 6/26/02	\$ 25.76																									
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CUSTOMER NAME 12345 SUNLIGHT HOUSTON, TX 77095			HARRIS CO. MUD #208 P.O. BOX 842115 HOUSTON TX 77284																															

YOU CAN CONTACT US AT

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