

Don't Let Your Money Go Down the Drain

- Little leaks add up in a hurry. A faucet drip or invisible toilet leak that totals only 2 teaspoons a minute comes to 15 gallons a day. That is 105 gallons a week, and 5,460 wasted gallons of water a year! Check every faucet in the house. A single dripping faucet can waste far more water in a single day than one person needs for drinking in an entire week.
- Leaky toilets can waste as much as 200 gallons each day. Identify leaks by adding food coloring in your toilet tank. If the color shows up in the bowl without the toilet being flushed, you have a leak to repair. Also, periodically test the flush and overflow valves on all toilets.
- Turn off the water while brushing your teeth or shaving.
- Do not use the toilet as a wastebasket.
- Keep showers short.
- Close the tub drain before turning on the water.
- Run the garbage disposal only when necessary.
- Fill sink or basin when washing or rinsing dishes.
- Run the washing machine only when full or adjust the water setting.
- Periodically inspect furnace humidifiers.
- Consider installing aerators on all faucets and showerhead(s), installing low flow toilet(s), and purchasing more water and energy efficient appliances.

Changing habits and being aware will not only save you money, but will also conserve water and improve water quality for everyone.

Efficient Irrigation Saves You Money

Irrigating lawns and landscaping is the largest contributor to water usage. Following the techniques below can help make lawn and landscaping irrigation as energy efficient as possible.

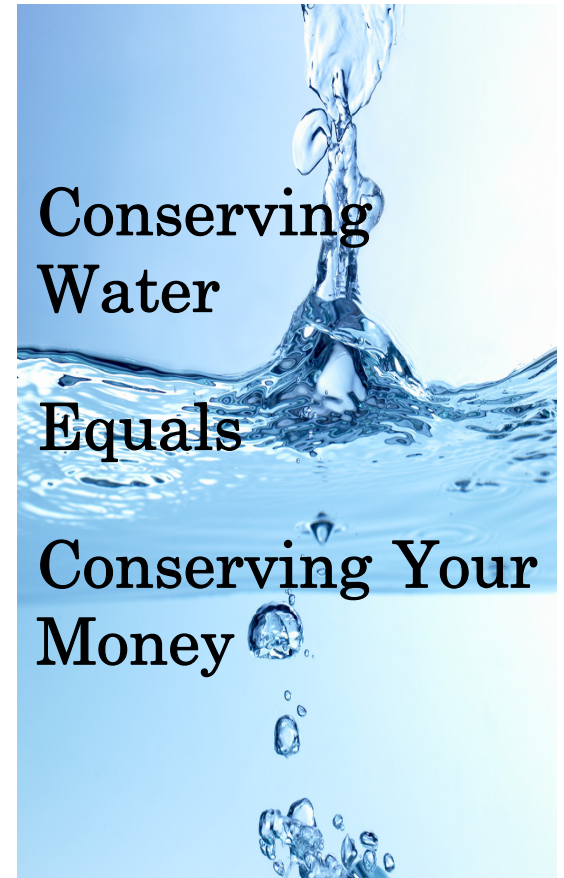
- Use the odd-even date watering schedule. Residents with odd numbered addresses can water Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday, and Sunday. Residents with even numbered addresses should water Monday, Wednesday, Friday, and Sunday. Automatic irrigation systems should only operate on the appropriate day between the hours of 12 a.m. and 6 a.m. Keep in mind: lawns only need ½" to 1½" of water per week.
- Water lawns and landscaping between the hours of 12 a.m. and 6 a.m. on the appropriate day to minimize evaporation. Also, for automatic irrigation systems, install rain shutoff devices to avoid unnecessary watering.
- Use plenty of mulch in landscaping beds (4" is average). Plant landscape beds with plants that are native to the area. Native plants are more adapted to the climate and have deep, extensive root systems that hold rain and survive drought better. Also, the longer grass is, the less watering it requires. A 3" blade height is recommended because it is thicker to hold water and minimize evaporation and the root is longer to withstand dry periods.
- Make sure sprinklers and irrigation system heads are directed to water only the grass or landscaping beds, not the sidewalk, driveway, or street in order to prevent pollutants on those surfaces and your money from running into the storm drains.



City of Walled Lake Water Department
1499 E. West Maple Road
Walled Lake, MI 48390
Phone: 248-624-4849
Fax: 248-624-1616
www.walledlake.com



Water Department



Rate FAQs

Why don't communities get the same wholesale water rate from Detroit Water and Sewerage Department (DWSD)?

There are many issues that impact rates in different communities. DWSD rates reflect the energy costs to maintain water pumps, water mains, and storage tanks needed to transport the water into our city.

Rates are affected by water usage, distance from the water treatment plant, and elevation change from the plant. Because of these reasons, costs are higher for communities with higher peak demand.

How are water and sewer rates set?

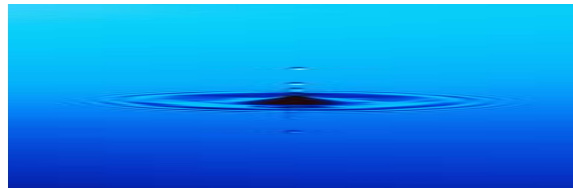
DWSD's water and sewer rates are based on the community's estimated future use, actual past usage and peak demand.

The City of Walled Lake sets its rates to pay for the expense incurred in delivering water and sewer services, such as: employing three full-time state certified waterworks system operators, processing monthly bacteriological samples, conducting chlorine residual tests, monitoring for lead and copper and for disinfection and chlorination by-products, as well as the costs for

water purchased from DWSD and to Oakland County Water Resources Commission (OCWRC) for sewerage treatment.

Why do rates increase?

Aging water and sewer treatment systems must be maintained or replaced to ensure reliable service. In addition to system improvements, the rate the City of Walled Lake, DWSD and OCWRC charge are impacted by inflation, the rising costs of utilities, insurance, and chemicals, and continually high standards set by State and Federal regulatory requirements.



How can residents save money?

Conserving water and using it wisely are the best ways to save money on your monthly water/sewer bill. Steps you can take to reduce your water usage include watering your lawn wisely and only during the allowed times, checking your home for any water leaks, only mowing grass when it is long, and collecting rainwater to water plants.

Please read the back of this brochure for more tips and recommendations on how to conserve water and save money through home maintenance/repairs and efficient irrigation.



The City of Walled Lake
Water Department
is available
24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

In case of a Water Emergency,
please call:

(248) 624-4849
Monday – Friday
8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

or

(248) 624-3111
After Hours, Holidays, and Weekends



Efficient Irrigation Saves You Money

Irrigating lawns and landscaping is the largest contributor to water usage. Following the techniques below can help make lawn and landscaping irrigation as energy efficient as possible.

- Use the odd-even date watering schedule. Residents with odd-numbered addresses should water Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday, and Sunday. Residents with even-numbered addresses should water Monday, Wednesday, Friday, and Sunday. Automatic irrigation systems may only operate on the appropriate day between the hours of 12:00 a.m. and 6:00 a.m. Keep in mind: lawns only need $\frac{1}{2}$ " to $1\frac{1}{2}$ " of water per week.
- Water lawns and landscaping between 12:00 a.m. and 6:00 a.m. on the appropriate day to minimize evaporation. Also, for automatic irrigation systems, install rain shutoff devices to avoid unnecessary watering.
- Use plenty of mulch in landscaping beds (4" is average). Plant landscape beds with plants that are native to the area. Native plants are more adapted to the climate and have deep, extensive root systems that hold rain and survive drought better. Also, the longer grass is, the less watering it requires. A 3" blade height is recommended because it is thicker to hold water and minimize evaporation. Also, the root is longer to withstand dry periods.
- Make sure sprinklers and irrigation system heads are directed to water only the grass or landscaping beds not the sidewalk, driveway, or street in order to prevent pollutants on those surfaces and your money from running into the storm drains.

Changing habits and being aware will not only save you money, but will also conserve water and improve water quality for everyone. If you have any questions or would like additional information, please contact the City of Walled Lake Water Department at (248) 624-4849.

