

# Explanation of Charges On Your Water Bill

## (Residential Customers)



FY2025-2026

**Water Usage:** The cost of service for each centum cubic feet\* (CCF) of water used during a billing period is recorded by the water meter. The City assesses a two-tier rate for usage. Tier 1 provides one rate for every water customer in Detroit that uses roughly 4,500 gallons (6 CCF) of water or less per month, and Tier 2 is a higher rate for any usage above roughly 4,500 gallons (6 CCF) per month as higher volume users put more demand on the water system. DWSD strives to keep Detroit water affordable and rates low. If you have a past due balance or are low-income, help is available. Learn more about how to keep your water flowing by visiting [detroitmi.gov/DWSD](http://detroitmi.gov/DWSD) or calling 313-267-8000.

**Water Service Charge\*\*:** A fixed monthly amount based on meter size to cover the cost of the meter, billing, and customer service.

**Sewerage Disposal:** The cost to collect, treat and dispose of untreated sewage for each CCF of water used during a billing period. Eligible residential accounts with active meters will automatically receive the Average Winter Consumption (AWC) method each month for your sewage usage based on water usage in January-April. The AWC accounts for watering lawns, flowers, plants and gardens that occurs in warmer months.

**Sewerage Service Charge\*\*:** A fixed monthly amount to cover the following:

**Operations, Maintenance, and Repair Charges (OM&R):** Amount for day-to-day customer service and maintenance operations.

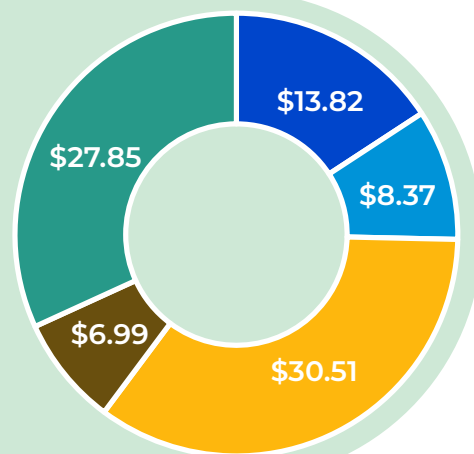
**Capital Charges:** Cost of improving and expanding meters, equipment and technology.

**Drainage Charge\*\*\*:** Monthly fee for the cost to collect and treat stormwater and snowmelt as required by the law, calculated by hard, impervious (surface) acreage. An automatic 25% credit for disconnected downspouts which flow onto the lawn and/or into a rain barrel is applied to bills for parcels subject to the fee.

### Average Monthly Bill for Detroit Residential Customer\*\*\*\*

# \$87.54

- Water Usage
- Water Service Charge
- Sewerage Disposal
- Sewerage Service Charge
- Drainage Charge



\*CCF (Cubic Feet) equals 100 cubic feet or approximately 748 gallons of water.

\*\*Amount is applicable whether or not water is used during the billing cycle.

\*\*\*Amount is applicable whether or not water is used during the billing cycle. Parcels with less than 0.02 impervious acreage are not subject to the drainage charge. Automatic credit is only for residential accounts; nonresidential accounts must apply for a credit.

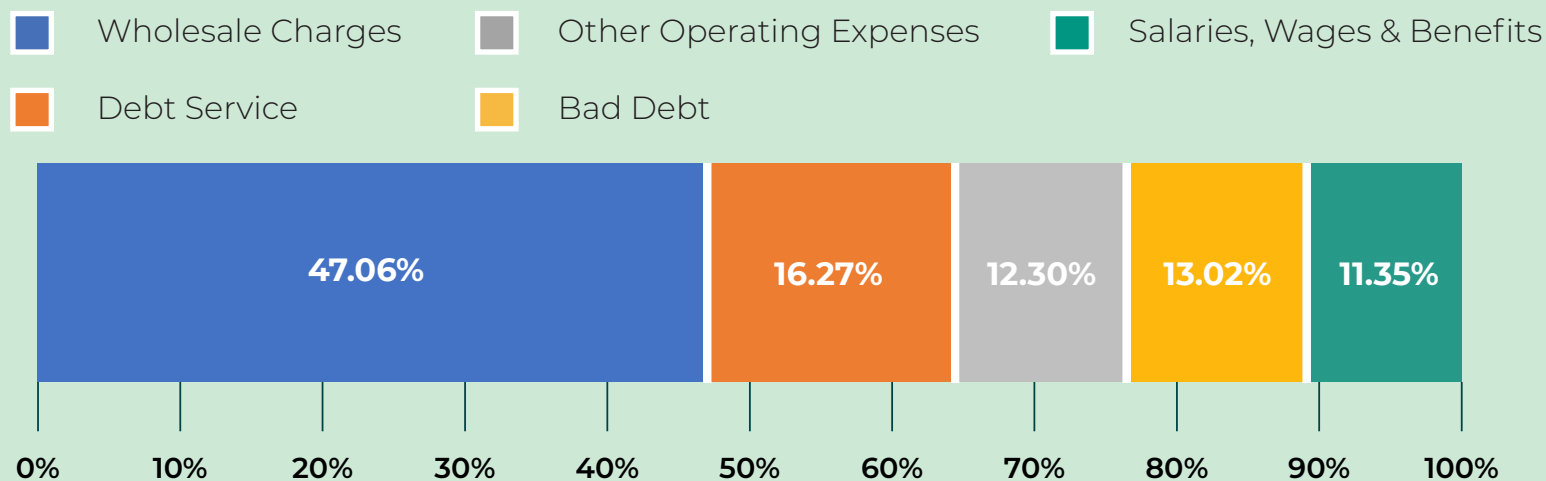
\*\*\*\*Based on 5 CCFs of water for an average family of three members using a 5/8-inch meter and 0.05 impervious acreage.

# Costs Breakdown: Where Your Money Goes

FY2025-2026



When you pay your monthly utility bill, the percentages shown below indicates how your dollars are utilized.



**Wholesale Charges:** The amount that the Great Lakes Water Authority (GLWA) charges the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department (DWSD) for treated drinking water and for collecting and treating sanitary sewage and stormwater. This is the highest portion of the cost to deliver these services in Detroit — 47.06% of the total combined budget for water, sewerage, and drainage.

**Debt Service:** Principal and interest payments on loans and bonds. Debt services takes up 16.27% of the overall budget.

**Other Operating Expenses:** Contractual and professional service expenses, shared service expenses with GLWA, utility expenses such as gas and lights, repair, and maintenance expenses, supplies and more. This accounts for 12.30% of the budget.

**Bad Debt:** Delinquent accounts for unpaid service and usage charges from residential and nonresidential customers. This makes up 13.02% of DWSD's operating budget.

**Salaries, Wages & Benefits:** DWSD employees, who work to provide service and maintain the water and sewer infrastructure in Detroit, receive salaries/wages and benefits. This makes up 11.35% of the operating budget.