



New Castle County Sewer Bill Rate Increase Information



Over the last ten years, the costs incurred by New Castle County for providing sewer service have risen 61%, while rates for customers have remained frozen. Since 1995, the average customer bill has decreased by 15%.

▶ The average sewer bill for 2006 for residential customers will increase approximately \$5.80 per month to an estimated annual total of \$241. The increase is reflected in bills mailed to residential customers in late January. Since fiscal year 2000, the sewer fund has operated at a greater and greater loss, which has been made up by taking monies from sewer fund reserves. The rate increase will allow the sewer fund to operate like other utilities.

▶ **Senior citizens and disabled residents** who receive an exemption because of their age or disability will **not** see a rate increase.

▶ Since 1995, the average customer bill has decreased by 15%. Sewer bills are based on how much water people use, and water consumption has decreased due to water-saving technology and water conservation efforts. In 1995, the average sewer bill was \$201; in 2005, it was about \$171.

▶ New Castle County's sewer rates are still extremely low. Even after the increase, they'll still be significantly lower than the rates in surrounding areas.

▶ New Castle County's 2006 annual residential sewer rate will increase by 39.7%.

▶ New Castle County is working to control costs and manage the sewer system to prevent the need for such significant rate increases in the future. Customers will likely see smaller, regular rate adjustments to reflect inflation in the costs of providing service.

New Castle County is helping taxpayers manage the rate increase by allowing residents to pay sewer bills in two installments. In January, you will receive a bill for 50% of the 2006 annual sewer service charge and any prior account balance, which will be due February 28. The bill for the 2nd installment will arrive in April and will be due May 31, 2006.

Residents can choose to pay the entire balance at any time before May 31. The total balance due for the year will appear on the January bill and will also be available on our system through the county website: www.nccde.org

If you have additional questions concerning your residential sewer service bill, visit New Castle County on the Internet at www.nccde.org, or call (302) 323-2600 Monday through Friday between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.