



Irvine Ranch Water District

Residential Water Rates

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How Residential Water Rates Are Calculated

An Allocation Based Conservation Rate Structure has **two basic components** that make up your water bill:

Service Charge Calculation

- Infrastructure Costs
- Operation and Maintenance Costs

Daily operation and maintenance costs are funded mainly through user service charges. There are separate service charges for the water and sewer

systems.

The cost of building water and sewer infrastructure is financed through general obligation bonds and debt service is paid through a combination of property taxes and connection fees.

*Water and sewer service charges are pro rated based on the number of days in the billing period.

Cost of Water Calculation

- The amount of water used – inside & outside your home
- Calculated using cost of local and imported water

Your **cost of water** is based on how much water actually used and whether or not you stay within your monthly water allocation as

noted **on the water use billing tiers**

chart below. (OPA residents, see Rates section below for your rate structure).

If you use more water than your allocation, your cost of water will increase due to the need for IRWD to purchase more expensive sources of water, such as imported water from the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California.

Water Use Billing Tiers

** (OPA residents, see OPA Rates section below.)

Tier	% of allocation
Low Volume Base Rate	0 – 40% 41 – 100%
Inefficient	101 – 130%
Excessive	131 – 160%
Wasteful	161 + %

How is Your Monthly Water Allocation Determined?

Your basic monthly water allocation provides a reasonable amount of water for your needs both inside and outside your home. It is calculated by:

- the number of people in the household
- the square footage of landscaped area.

If you have landscaping, your water needs will change as the weather changes, and your water allocation will adjust accordingly.

Check out the Water Allocation Calculator Tool to see how different factors affect your existing allocation.

Standard Water Allocation Chart:

The indoor water allocation is 50 gallons per person per day and depends upon the number of residents in a home. Water allocated for landscape irrigation depends upon the type of home.

Single Family Home	Attached Home Condo	Apartments
		
		
1300 Square Feet Landscape Area	435 Square Feet Landscape Area	No Landscape

Variations from Standard Allocation are Available:

If you need a variance for either your indoor or outdoor water allocation, you can submit an application online to [request a variance](#) or email Customer Service at customerservice@irwd.com.

Other Useful Information:

[Bill Calculator Tool \(with an Account Number\)](#)

[Bill Calculator Tool \(without an Account Number\)](#)

[Water Allocation Calculator Tool](#)

[Learn about the Technical Water Allocation Formula](#)

Residential Water Rates FY 2014/2015

As a result of consolidations with neighboring geographical areas, IRWD currently has three rate areas: Irvine, Los Alisos and Orange Park Acres. You can find out more about the consolidation process and current status [here](#). Complete rate information is available in the [Rates and Charges](#) document adopted by the IRWD Board on June 23, 2014.

[Complete Rates & Charges Document \(effective July 1, 2014\)](#)

[Irvine Rates At-A-Glance Brochure](#)

[Los Alisos Rates At-A-Glance Brochure](#)

[Orange Park Acres Rates At-A-Glance Brochure](#)

What follows is an at-a-glance view of residential water rates. Please note that ccf, or one hundred cubic feet, is the basic measurement of water use. One ccf equals approximately 748 gallons.

Irvine Ranch Service Area

	Tier	Percent Allocation	of Cost per ccf
Commodity (Cost of Water) Charge	Low Volume	0 - 40%	\$0.88
	Base Rate	41 - 100%	\$1.34
	Inefficient	101 - 130%	\$3.91
	Excessive	131 - 160%	\$6.22
	Wasteful	161+%	\$12.60

Monthly Service Charge: \$10.50
(5/8" x 3/4" meter)

Los Alisos Service Area

	Tier	Percent Allocation	of Cost per ccf
Commodity (Cost of Water) Charge	Low Volume	0 - 40%	\$1.51
	Base Rate	41 - 100%	\$2.31
	Inefficient	101 - 130%	\$3.91
	Excessive	131 - 160%	\$6.22
	Wasteful	161+%	\$12.60

Monthly Service Charge:
\$10.50 (5/8" x 3/4" meter)

Orange Park Acres Service Area (potable)

	Tier	Allocation	Cost per ccf
Commodity Chart (3/4" meter)	Standard	0 - 10 ccf	\$1.86

Tier I	11 - 40 ccf	\$2.20
Excess Tier	41+ ccf	\$2.75
II		
Excess Tier		
III		

Monthly Service Charge: \$19.00
(all meter sizes)

Pumping Surcharge, Service Establishment and Reconnection Fees

A surcharge will be added to the commodity rate of those users who reside at higher elevations and cause the District to incur additional pumping costs to supply their water. The surcharge is based upon prevailing energy costs and currently varies from \$0.16 to \$0.42 per ccf depending upon the elevation of the area served. If you live in an area affected by a pumping surcharge it will be itemized on your monthly bill.

Service establishment fee for new accounts: \$20.00

Fees for reconnection to the system in the event of shutoff: \$70.00 - \$95.00

Latest News



Help IRWD Save Lives at Spring 2015 Blood Drive

“Would you like a T-shirt, or a pint of Baskin Robbins Ice Cream?” will be the decision posed before those who participate in Irvine Ranch Water District’s annual spring blood drive on Wednesday, March 25, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00...



Four Science Fair Winners Chosen

Since the inception of the Irvine Unified School District’s science fair more than 30 years ago, Irvine Ranch Water District professionals have assisted, whether it’s advising during Ask-a-Scientist Night, or judging the water-related science fair projects. This year was no...



Wanted: Photos of You Fixing a Leak

Fix a Leak Week is March 16-22, so Irvine Ranch Water District will observe it by hosting a contest for leak detectives. IRWD customers can win up to a \$500 Home Depot gift card for their efforts. To enter, use this...

Irvine Ranch Water District

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Residential Water Rates

IRWD uses an Allocation Based Conservation Rate Structure that is based on the cost of service and has two basic components that make up your water bill: **Cost of Water + Service Charge**



Cost of Water Calculation

- The amount of water used - inside & outside your home.
- Calculated using cost of local and imported water.

The cost of water is based on how much water you actually used and whether you stayed within your monthly allocation.

If you use more water than your monthly water allocation, your cost of water will increase due to the increased costs incurred to provide the service.

For example, if you waste water by going over your allocation, IRWD will incur additional costs for imported water (the most expensive type of water for IRWD), urban runoff programs, water banking and water conservation programs.



Service charge calculation

- Operation & maintenance costs
- Infrastructure costs

Daily operation and and maintenance costs are funded mainly thru user service charges.

There are separate service charges for the water and sewer systems. .

The cost of building water and sewer infrastructure is financed through general obligation bonds and debt service is paid through a combination of property taxes and connection fees. Connection fees are paid by developers.

Your Monthly Indoor & Outdoor Water Allocations

The California State Water Resources Control Board has imposed a statewide drinking water reduction mandate. In order to implement this mandate all IRWD customers will be required to limit their outdoor water use.

Your Indoor Water Allocation has not changed:

It is based on the default number of residents in a home and is 50 gallons per person per day. It is also based on the type of home (attached home/condo, apartment, single family residence)

Your Outdoor Water Allocation has changed and is based on drought tolerant landscaping:

It is no longer based on warm season turf. It is now based on drought tolerant landscaping irrigated with drip or a high efficiency irrigation system, the default outside landscape area, and the actual daily weather and how much water your drought efficient plants need to stay healthy. Your water allocation will change with the weather throughout the year. When the weather is hotter or windier, your allocation goes up automatically. When it's cooler or rains, your allocation decreases automatically. If you have a lawn, your will likely be over allocation and recieve a higher bill.

Default Water Allocations

Your allocation is printed on your monthly bill.



Single Family Home
1300 Square Feet Landscape Area
Number of Residents 4



Attached Home (Condo)
435 Square Feet Landscape Area
Number of Residents 3



Apartments
No Landscape
Number of Residents 2

Variances From Standard Water Allocation

Variances From Standard Water Allocation are available to make adjustments to the default allocations for more people living in the home, medical needs, additional landscape area or other special circumstances. [Please click here to apply for a variance.](#)

Your Monthly Water Service Charge

- The fixed monthly water service charge is \$10.30 for the average size residential water meter.
- Residential customers that remain in the low volume tier for most of the year will have a larger percentage of their bill made up of the fixed charge. The baseline fixed charge is calculated on the meter's maximum flow capacity and the demand on the system.
- A lease back approach recognizes low volume users that don't fully use their reserved capacity. IRWD will provide credit to users who are underutilizing that flow and effectively "leasing back" to the system for other users. This prevents the District from having to upsize infrastructure as quickly as capacity is exhausted. Customers that remain in the low volume tier for 9 of 12 months will receive a \$2.00 monthly leaseback credit.

Use the Rate Calculator

See how staying within your allocation or exceeding will affect your monthly bill. Provide your account number from a recent bill and you can see how your bill will be recalculated using the new rates, allocations and tiers, and any variances you have on your account.

[Try it now](#)

Other Useful Information:

As a result of consolidations with neighboring geographical areas, IRWD has two rate areas: Irvine and Los Alisos. You can find out more about the consolidation process and current status [here](#). Complete rate information is available in the Rate and Charges document adopted by the IRWD Board of Directors on June 22, 2015.

[IRWD Rates & Charges - Complete FY 2015/16](#)

[Irvine Rates At-a-Glance Flyer](#)

[Los Alisos At-a-Glance Flyer](#)

[Learn about the Technical Water Allocation Formula](#)

[Water Allocation Calculator Tool](#)

Residential Water Rates for FY 2015/16

The rate changes effective July 1, 2015 are due to uncontrollable cost increases from

- Significantly higher operating and maintenance expenses associated with higher pass through expenses from other agencies and additional facilities coming on line (28%)
- Significantly higher electricity costs for pumping and treating water (5% increase);
- Charges from the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) for imported water purchases through our regional wholesaler the Municipal Water District of Orange County (MWDOC), the most expensive source of water supply (2% increase); and
- Charges from the Orange County Water District (OCWD) for pumping local groundwater (10% increase.) (note: does not apply to Los Alisos rate area.)

Low Volume rate reflects the lowest cost source of water and rewards those customers using the least amount of water, thereby reducing the need for IRWD to purchase more expensive supplies. A ccf equals one hundred cubic feet and is the standard billing unit. One ccf = 748 gallons of water.

Irvine Ranch Service Area - Residential with Outdoor Water Use		
Commodity (Cost of Water) Charge		
Tier	Percent of allocation	Cost per CCF
Low Volume	0 - 40%	\$1.11
Base Rate	41% - 100%	\$1.62
Inefficient	101% - 130%	\$3.92
Wasteful	131+%	\$14.53
Monthly Service Charge: \$10.30 (5/8" x 3/4" meter)		

Irvine Ranch Service Area - Residential Multi-Family with No Outdoor Water Use		
Commodity (Cost of Water) Charge		
Tier	Percent of allocation	Cost per CCF
Low Volume	0 - 60%	\$1.11
Base Rate	61% - 100%	\$1.62
Inefficient	101% - 120%	\$3.92
Wasteful	121+%	\$14.53
Monthly Service Charge: \$10.30 (5/8" x 3/4" meter)		

Los Alisos Service Area

The current Allocation-Based Conservation rate structure for the IRWD Los Alisos rate area is similar to the IRWD rate structure, but takes into account that this part of the service area does not have a local groundwater basin and no source of local water. Los Alisos is almost wholly dependent upon more expensive imported water from MWD. While the Los Alisos rate area has transitioned to a rate structure that encourages efficient water use, it will not have the same water commodity charge as customers in the IRWD Irvine rate area until a sale of the property surrounding the former Los Alisos Water District headquarters in Lake Forest is completed. The revenue realized from the eventual sale will help equalize the higher cost of imported water and allow the Los Alisos Service Area to have rate parity with IRWD.

Los Alisos Service Area		
Commodity (Cost of Water) Charge		
Tier	Percent of allocation	Cost per CCF
Low Volume	0 - 40%	\$1.64
Base Rate	41% - 100%	\$2.39
Inefficient	101% - 130%	\$3.60
Wasteful	131+%	\$15.20
Monthly Service Charge: \$10.30 (5/8" x 3/4" meter)		

Los Alisos Service Area - Residential Multi-Family with No Outdoor Water Use		
Commodity (Cost of Water) Charge		
Tier	Percent of allocation	Cost per CCF
Low Volume	0 - 60%	\$1.64
Base Rate	61% - 100%	\$2.39
Inefficient	101% - 120%	\$3.60
Wasteful	121+%	\$15.20
Monthly Service Charge: \$10.30 (5/8" x 3/4" meter)		

For complete FY 2015/16 rate change information please see the [IRWD Rates and Charges Document](#)

Latest News



Does Seeing Green Make You See Red?



RightScape Workshops are Back



During this time of drought, we are advising our customers that "brown is the new green." So when you are driving down the street and you see a big green lawn on public property, or a greenbelt or park, more...

Did you miss the last round of RightScape workshops? We've scheduled more! These informative workshops will help you learn about the right plants, the right equipment and the right schedule to get you on the road to saving water and...

Allocation Based Conservation Rate Structures Provide Sustainable Water Savings
Allocation Based Conservation Rate Structures Provide Sustainable Water Savings The Irvine Ranch Water District understands the importance of preserving California's water supplies, especially in times of drought, and has taken many steps over many years to encourage water use efficiency and...

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