

Dear Schenley Farmers,

Following a recent notification for an increase in water rates by the Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority, we "discovered" that base water rates vary significantly depending upon the size of the water pipe that feeds the home. Your water bill rates based upon the water meter size, and not necessarily the amount of water that is used. Your water bill indicates your rate is "residential" but does not indicate your water meter size. You need to call Pittsburgh Water Customer Service (412-255-2423, press 5, then press 5 again) and tell them you want to apply to downsize your water meter and you need to know your meter size.

There are 10 categories of water meter sizes ranging from 5/8 inch to 10 inches or greater. The attached chart lists the water meter size, minimum water use for each meter size, and total minimum charge for each meter size beginning Jan 1, 2023. Most single family residences have a 5/8 inch pipe that feeds the home and would therefore have a 5/8 inch water meter (base rate = \$33.84 for the first 1,000 gallons, then \$20.45 for every additional 1,000 gallons). Most residences use between 2,000 to 4000 gallons per month.

It is likely that many, if not most, Schenley Farms homes built in the early 1900's have a 1 inch pipe that feeds the home and therefore are obligated to have a 1 inch water meter. As you can see in the chart, the rate for a 1 inch water meter is \$126.35 for the first 5,000 gallons, but you don't pay less if you use less water. The Pittsburgh Water and Sewage Authority does have a web page (<https://www.pgh2o.com/residential-commercial-customers/service-changes/water-meter-sizing>) that explains water meter sizing with additional links and contact information to determine if a home qualifies for meter downsizing.

A homeowner can submit a "Meter Sizing Application" on-line by clicking the link embedded in the "Meter Sizing" webpage and apply to "downsize" the water meter based upon the number and type of water-using appliances in the home (e.g., tubs, showers, sinks, etc). If one qualifies, the Chief Operating Officer for Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) will determine the appropriate meter size (it will likely be 3/4 inch). If the COO determines a smaller pipe/meter could be used, the homeowner will need to engage a plumber (at the homeowners expense) to downsize the 1 inch pipe to one that is 3/4 inch in order to accommodate the new meter in-line with that water pipe that feeds the house.

I am aware of at least 1 homeowner who realized significant savings in their monthly water bill after going through this procedure.

Please let me know if you have any questions or comments.

Best,

Rob Squires  
President, Schenley Farms Civic Association  
web page: [schenleyfarms.org](http://schenleyfarms.org)

Effective January 1, 2023, charges for metered water and sewer conveyance are determined and billed monthly, as follows:

Meter Size	Minimum Gallons	Minimum Charge: Water	Minimum Charge: Sewer	Total Minimum Charge
*5/8"	1,000	\$26.52	\$7.32	\$33.84
3/4"	2,000	\$46.47	\$11.70	\$58.17
1"	5,000	\$102.08	\$24.27	\$126.35
1 1/2"	10,000	\$201.85	\$46.19	\$248.04
2"	17,000	\$337.28	\$76.29	\$413.57
3"	40,000	\$766.42	\$173.03	\$939.45
4"	70,000	\$1,313.93	\$297.52	\$1,611.45
6"	175,000	\$3,174.80	\$725.62	\$3,900.42
8"	325,000	\$5,784.48	\$1,330.48	\$7,114.96
10" or larger	548,000	\$9,582.36	\$2,218.44	\$11,800.80
<b>Fire Line Minimum Charge</b>				
1" or less				\$15.43

Meter Size	Minimum Gallons	Minimum Charge: Water	Minimum Charge: Sewer	Total Minimum Charge
1 1/2" - 3"				\$46.28
4"				\$152.25
6" or greater				\$325.06

\*Typical single-family residential meter size

For every 1,000 gallons over the minimum, the rate is the following:

Account Classification	Water Allocation	Sewer Allocation	Total Combined Rate
*Residential Property	\$14.64	\$5.81	\$20.45
Commercial Property	\$13.80	\$5.28	\$19.08
Industrial Property	\$12.13	\$5.05	\$17.18
Health or Education Property	\$16.29	\$6.38	\$22.67
Fire Systems (use other than reported fire - Rule 304.9)	\$39.05	-	\$39.05

\*Average consumption for a single-family residence is 3,000 gallons per month.