



City of Brillion  
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[www.ci.brillion.wi.us](http://www.ci.brillion.wi.us)

Date: November 2, 2021

To: Brillion Water/Sewer Utility Customers

From: Brillion Water and Sewer Utility Commission

RE: Sewer Rate Increase

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The Brillion Sewer Utility is required to reach breakeven in their annual budget. For 2021 and projected 2022 the Sewer Utility Budget was losing money. In order to reach a level of breakeven and begin to build reserves as required by the Wisconsin DNR to be in compliance with Clean Water Loan Requirements an increase in Sewer Rates of 15% is needed to meet this requirement.

The City of Brillion Water & Sewer Utility Commission recommended and Common Council has approved a 15% increase in the sewer rates for all Brillion Water and Sewer Utility customers, which will go into effect the 4th quarter billing of 2021. Customers bills will reflect this increase on their water and sewer bill after December 2, 2021 on the March 2022 billing.

**The approved Sewer rate increase is as follows:**

**Sewer base charge per quarter increase from \$55.09 to \$63.35  
plus  
Sewer usage charge increase from \$4.08 per 1,000 gallons of water used to  
\$4.69 per 1,000 gallons of water used.**

The Brillion Water and Sewer Utility bills quarterly, however, all customers can make monthly payments to their accounts by mail or on-line through PSN (Payment Service Network, Inc.) which can be found on the City's website.

The Brillion Water and Sewer Utility Commission values our customers and we are committed to work diligently to provide the highest quality of service at the lowest responsible cost. Attached are tips you can take to help in this effort.

Thank you,

Brillion Water and Sewer Utility Commission

### **Do Your Part:**

The City of Brillion is working to remove clearwater from the sanitary sewer system. Clearwater in the system overloads the system. What happens when the system can't handle all of the flow? Some residents experience what we would all dread, sewage flow back-up into basements.

Heavy rain events can also lead to bypassing flows, which means discharging dirty water onto the ground and into Spring Creek or the Marsh.

What can you do?

- **Do not connect your sump pump line to the sanitary sewer system.**
- **If you have a foundation drain, do not connect it to the sanitary sewer system.**
- **Do not connect down spouts from the roof to the sanitary sewer system.**
- **Make sure all openings to the sanitary sewer are sealed.**

**It is illegal to discharge unpolluted waters, such as stormwater, groundwater, roof runoff, subsurface drainage or cooling water to any sanitary sewer (OR00-13, Section 98-296).**

**Even though your contribution may seem small, we are all in this together! Please do your part.**

### **Facts About Sewer Backup Incidents:**

Sanitary sewer overflows can be caused by a number of factors. They usually involve sewer pipe blockages in either main sewer lines or service laterals (lines between buildings and the main line). Causes may include pipe breaks or cracks due to tree roots, system deterioration, insufficient system capacity due to residential or commercial growth, or construction mishaps. In homes and office plumbing systems, the main cause is accumulation of grease, tree roots, hair, or solid materials, such as disposable diapers or sanitary napkins that are too large for wastewater pipes to handle. Such materials may cause major backups in City lines as well as in residents' lateral lines

The following are preventive measures you can take to prevent sewage backup in your home.

- Avoid putting grease down your garbage disposal or household drain. It can solidify, collect debris and accumulate in City lines, or build up in your own system.
- **Never flush disposable diapers, sanitary napkins, paper towels or wipes down the toilet. They could stop up your drains and may damage your plumbing system.**
- If the lateral line in your older home has a jointed pipe system, consider whether the roots of large shrubs or trees near the line could invade and break pipes. It is a good idea to know the location of your lateral line(s).
- If the lowest level of your home is below ground level, such as a basement floor drain, it may one day be affected by a backup. One way to prevent sewage backup through such below ground areas is to install a "back-flow valve" on the lowest drain(s). You can also use a plumber's test plug to close these drains when not in use.
- Check with your insurance agent to make sure you have adequate insurance coverage. The City cannot assume financial responsibility for damages resulting from sewage backups, since most stoppages are related to conditions that are beyond the City's control. That is why it is important that property owners confirm that they are adequately insured.

If you have questions, please call Brillion Utility at 920-756-2250.