



Department of Public Works
Milwaukee Water Works

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The Storm Water Management Charge

The Storm Water Management Charge is a tool for communities to use to invest in reducing pollution from storm water runoff. Storm water is water from rain and melting snow that flows off roofs, driveways, parking lots, playgrounds, streets, and other hard, or impervious, surfaces. The water washes industrial chemicals, gas, oil, antifreeze, road salt, detergents, pesticides, pet waste, and other pollutants into storm drains. The storm drains dump the polluted water, without treating it, directly into Lake Michigan and local rivers. Storm water is the largest polluter of streams, rivers, and lakes. Storm water management monies pay for projects to prevent storm water pollution of natural waterways and to operate and maintain storm sewers.

The Storm Water Management Charge was introduced in the 2006 City of Milwaukee budget. Previously, the costs for construction and maintenance of city storm and sanitary sewers were covered by sewer charges based on drinking water use. The charge distributes the cost of storm water programs to non-profit and tax-exempt organizations, and non-residential and commercial property owners with multiple buildings, parking lots, and paved surfaces. The charge appears on the Milwaukee Municipal Services Bill administered by the Milwaukee Water Works.

Vacant, improved property with sewer and water service and street access, with or without a building on it, and with any hard surface such as a driveway, sidewalk, or concrete slab will be charged the Storm Water Management Charge. Such a residential property is charged one ERU while the non-residential property is charged based on the square footage of hard surface of the property. A lot that has no hard surface (no building, no driveway) will not be charged for Storm Water Management.

The charge is based on the amount of impervious, or hard, surface area of a property as measured in Equivalent Residential Units (ERU). A typical residential property is considered to have an average impervious surface area of 1,610 square feet. The number of ERUs for non-residential, commercial developed property and vacant, improved property is calculated by dividing the impervious surface area of the property by 1,610.

Residential buildings (one to four dwelling units in a house, apartment, or condominium) are considered to have one ERU and are billed \$19.22 per quarter or \$76.88 per year.

Non-residential developed property, buildings with more than four residential units, and vacant improved property. These are billed based on the amount of hard surface area of the property. Calculate the number of ERUs for a property by dividing the square footage of hard surface of the property by 1,610. Condominium associations are charged based on the amount of hard surface area of the entire property. The charge is billed quarterly to the condominium association.

For commercial customers billed quarterly, the charge is \$19.22 per ERU per quarter.
For commercial customers billed monthly, the charge is \$6.40 per ERU per month.

Para una explicación en Español por favor llame al (414) 286-2830.

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