

INTRODUCTION TO MUNICIPAL FIRE PROTECTION AND REFUSE SERVICE FEE

The City of Charleston imposes a fire protection and refuse service fee upon the owner(s) of any and all residences, buildings, or structures within the city limits. These fees, along with your sewer charges are billed and included in the monthly municipal fees statement you receive. The City of Charleston is responsible for your fire and refuse fees, while the Charleston Sanitary Board is responsible for your sewer charges.

It is important to note the City of Charleston and the Charleston Sanitary Board are two separate and distinct entities, each with their own governing body, executive management, support staff, and location. The City of Charleston and the Charleston Sanitary Board do have an agreement in place to share a common billing system.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding your sewer bill, you should contact the Charleston Sanitary Board at 348-8136. The Charleston Sanitary Board is located at 208 26th Street in North Charleston. Their office is open daily, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., except holidays.

If you own rental property in the city, it is important to note that according to the Code of the City of Charleston, you are responsible for paying the fire and refuse fees as long as you own the property. In contrast your tenant(s) and/or the water account holder(s) are responsible for paying the sewer fees.

The Office of City Collector is located in the new City Service Center located at 915 Quarrier Street, Suite 4 (corner of Dickinson & Quarrier Streets). Our office is open daily, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., except holidays. We are here to assist you with any questions or concerns you may have relating to your fees. If you need any assistance with your account, please contact our office at (304) 348-8024 or www.citycollector@cityofcharleston.org

Payment for Sewer, Fire & Refuse Fees can be made online at: www.charlestonwvpayments.com

FIRE SERVICE FEE OVERVIEW

The service of fire protection shall be continued, maintained, and improved by the city, in part, at the charge and expense of the owner(s) of any and all residences, buildings, or structures of every kind and nature within the city, which owners are declared to be the users and beneficiaries of such fire protection service.

The annual charge for fire service fees is determined by the square footage of your structure, and whether it is classified as residential or commercial. For your convenience, fire service fees are billed in monthly installments, based on your square footage of your structure, as listed below.

Residential Rates:

<u>Square Footage</u>	<u>Yearly</u>	<u>Monthly</u>		<u>Square Footage</u>	<u>Yearly</u>	<u>Monthly</u>
1 to 1,000	15.00	1.25		10,001 to 15,000	225.00	18.75
1,001 to 1,500	22.00	1.83		15,001 to 20,000	300.00	25.00
1,501 to 2,000	29.00	2.42		20,001 to 25,000	375.00	31.25
2,001 to 2,500	38.00	3.17		25,001 to 30,000	450.00	37.50
2,501 to 3,000	45.00	3.75		30,001 to 35,000	525.00	43.75
3,001 to 3,500	52.00	4.33		35,001 to 40,000	600.00	50.00
3,501 to 4,000	60.00	5.00		40,001 to 45,000	675.00	56.25
4,001 to 4,500	68.00	5.67		45,001 to 50,000	750.00	62.50
4,501 to 5,000	75.00	6.25		50,001 to 55,000	825.00	68.75
5,001 to 5,500	83.00	6.92		55,001 to 60,000	900.00	75.00
5,501 to 6,000	91.00	7.58		60,001 to 65,000	975.00	81.25
6,001 to 6,500	98.00	8.17		65,001 to 70,000	1,050.00	87.50
6,501 to 7,000	106.00	8.83		70,001 to 75,000	1,125.00	93.75
7,001 to 7,500	113.00	9.42		75,001 to 80,000	1,200.00	100.00
7,501 to 8,000	120.00	10.00		80,001 to 85,000	1,275.00	106.25
8,001 to 8,500	127.00	10.58		85,001 to 90,000	1,350.00	112.50
8,501 to 9,000	135.00	11.25		90,001 to 95,000	1,425.00	118.75
9,001 to 9,500	143.00	11.92		95,001 to 100,000	1,501.00	125.08
9,501 to 10,000	150.00	12.50		100,000 and over	3,000.00	250.00

Commercial Rates:

<u>Square Footage</u>	<u>Yearly</u>	<u>Monthly</u>		<u>Square Footage</u>	<u>Yearly</u>	<u>Monthly</u>
1 to 1,000	42.00	3.50		25,001 to 30,000	1,265.00	105.42
1,001 to 1,500	63.00	5.25		30,001 to 35,000	1,476.00	123.00
1,501 to 2,000	85.00	7.08		35,001 to 40,000	1,687.00	140.58
2,000 to 2,500	106.00	8.83		40,001 to 45,000	1,897.00	158.08
2,501 to 3,000	127.00	10.58		45,001 to 50,000	2,108.00	175.67
3,001 to 3,500	149.00	12.42		50,001 to 55,000	2,319.00	193.25
3,501 to 4,000	170.00	14.17		55,001 to 60,000	2,529.00	210.75
4,001 to 4,500	191.00	15.92		60,001 to 65,000	2,739.00	228.25
4,501 to 5,000	211.00	17.58		65,001 to 70,000	2,950.00	245.83
5,001 to 5,500	232.00	19.33		70,001 to 75,000	3,161.00	263.42
5,501 to 6,000	253.00	21.08		75,001 to 80,000	3,372.00	281.00
6,001 to 6,500	274.00	22.83		80,001 to 85,000	3,582.00	298.50
6,501 to 7,000	295.00	24.58		85,001 to 90,000	3,792.00	316.00
7,001 to 7,500	316.00	26.33		90,001 to 95,000	4,003.00	333.58
7,501 to 8,000	337.00	28.08		95,001 to 100,000	4,214.00	351.17
8,001 to 8,500	358.00	29.83		100,000 to 125,000	5,268.00	439.00
8,501 to 9,000	380.00	31.67		125,001 to 150,000	6,322.00	526.83
9,001 to 9,500	401.00	33.42		150,001 to 175,000	7,375.00	614.58
9,501 to 10,000	422.00	35.17		175,001 to 200,000	8,428.00	702.33
10,001 to 15,000	632.00	52.67		200,001 to 225,000	9,482.00	790.17
15,001 to 20,000	843.00	70.25		225,001 to 250,000	10,536.00	878.00
20,001 to 25,000	1,054.00	87.83		250,000 and over	12,643.00	1,053.58

HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION

Residents who are 65 years of age or older may qualify for an annual Homestead Exemption of \$25.00. To qualify for this exemption, residents must meet the following qualifications:

- 1) The homeowner must be at least 65 years old, or permanently or totally disabled; and
- 2) The homeowner must have resided in their home for at least six months; and
- 3) The homeowner must have been a West Virginia resident for at least two years.

If you meet the above qualifications, you must complete an “[*Application for Fire Fee Reduction*](#)” and return it to the Office of City Collector. Please note upon submission and approval of an initial application, you do not need to re-apply each year.

REFUSE FEE OVERVIEW

The City of Charleston provides weekly refuse/recycling service to any and all residents located within the city limits. We provide an annual supply of black garbage bags and an annual supply of clear plastic refuse bags to assist citizens in their efforts.

Each household (property owner) that has a **current refuse account** is allotted 100 refuse and 35 recycling bags twice a year. At the instruction of the City Collector's Office a third-party vendor mails vouchers to the owner of the property in **March** and **September** of each year. The voucher states the names and addresses of the local retail stores that distribute the bags. You must present your voucher to the retail establishment in order to receive your bags. If you are not the property owner, you should contact your landlord. Additional refuse and/or recycling bags can be purchased from the retail establishment. **Please be aware that each voucher has an expiration date.**

For standard weekly service to single-family residential units, including apartment and efficiency apartments, the charges will be \$18.00 per month. For standard weekly service to non-residential units, the charges will be \$25.00 per month for curbside pickup of refuse and \$40.00 per month per dumpster, not exceeding three cubic yards in size.

The residential charges prescribed above shall apply to any and all residential properties of up to 12 residential units and shall be paid to the Office of City Collector by the *owner(s)* of the property. The fees shall be due and payable when billed. If the billing is not paid within 20 days of the mailing, a ten percent (10%) penalty will be added to the bill.

LOW INCOME FEE REDUCTION

If the combined gross income of all residents residing in a single-family residential unit, including apartments and efficiency apartments, maintained and occupied by a resident of the city during the preceding calendar year is less than \$20,000.00, the monthly refuse charges may be reduced to \$5.00 per month.

To qualify for the low income refuse fee reduction, your account must be current. To apply for this reduction, you must complete a "[*Refuse Fee Reduction Application*](#)" and return it to the Office of City Collector. **Please note a new application must be completed each year.**

CURBSIDE RECYCLING PROGRAM

The City of Charleston encourages all residents to recycle. We participate in a curbside recycling program. This program allows for certain items to be picked up on designated recycling days throughout the city. Items collected for recycling include: bi-metal cans, aluminum cans, plastics (except plant trays and containers), newspapers, magazines, and telephone books. These items are to be placed in either the recycling bin or clear refuse bags provided by the city, and placed at the curb on the designated day in the area in which you live.

RECYCLING COLLECTION

Black garbage bags should only be used for the containment of household waste, trash, and other refuse. The clear plastic refuse bags are to be used for yard waste (grass, leaves, weeds, plant prunings, light brush. Recycling bins or the clear bags can be used for bi-metal cans, aluminum cans, plastics, newspapers, magazines, and telephone books.