

Understanding how water usage impacts your water bill

During periods of warm, dry weather, customers tend to increase their water usage for irrigation. While it is important to protect landscape vegetation during hot conditions, it is also good to know what your water budget is and to read your water meter so you know how much water you are using each month and you can adjust your usage accordingly.

When you notice an increase in water usage, you may be surpassing your water budget which will result in higher rates. If your water use has gone up, it's a good idea to consider the following:

- Did you water your lawn more frequently the past few weeks?
- Was new landscape recently installed requiring more watering?
- Did you host house guests requiring more indoor water use?
- Is there a chance you have a leak?

Water budgets

Metro District customers are billed for water consumption using a conservation-based rate structure called water budgets. Each customer is assigned an allocation of water that provides for both indoor and outdoor use. Water budgets are set for each customer based on lot size and adjusted for average seasonal outdoor irrigation requirements beginning the third week of April through the second week of October. The water budget for outdoor irrigation provides enough water for healthy landscapes, but not so much that our valuable resource is wasted.

Up to 100%	\$3.63
101% - 120%	\$4.90
121% - 140%	\$7.43
141% +	\$11.25

Water budgets do not change for weather conditions.

Water budgets are linked to an increasing tiered rate structure to encourage water conservation. When water use is greater than the budgeted amount, customers will pay more. Water bills are based on a two-month period, based on billing rates per 1,000 gallons of water used. The graph above depicts the rates customers will pay when they exceed their allocated water budget.

Reading your meter

It can be very useful to become familiar with your water use patterns. Your water meter is a highly accurate and dependable water-measuring device that registers all the water used in your home. Knowing how much water you are using can help guide you to use water wisely.

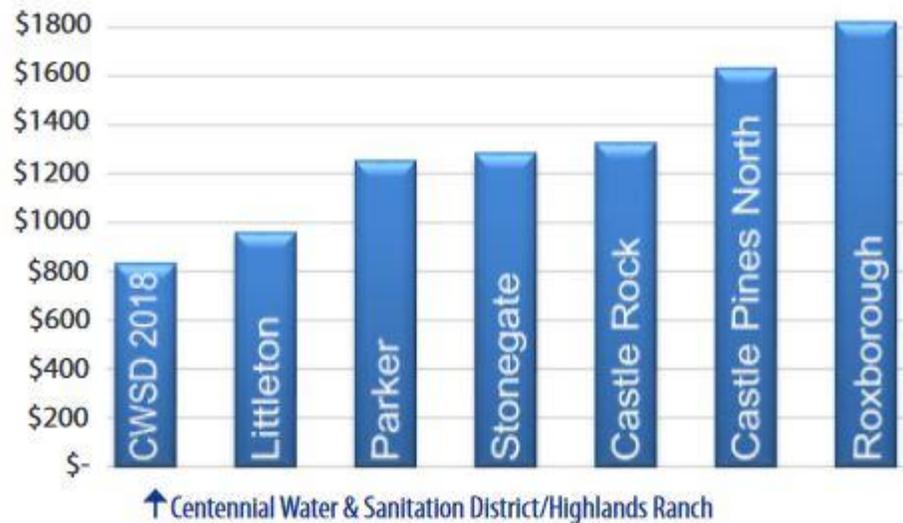
To start, you may want to record your water usage on a weekly basis. Water meters are usually located in the basement. Make sure to write down the entire seven digits, reading left to right, and note the date you read the water meter.

Adjusting your controller

Weather changes on a weekly, if not daily basis in Colorado. Adjusting your controller should become routine. When there is rain in the forecast or rain has recently occurred, remember to shut down the irrigation system to save on your water use.

Water and wastewater rates

Water and wastewater rates for Highlands Ranch residents are among the lowest in the Denver metro area. See the chart below for a comparison of an estimated annual water and wastewater bill for a typical single family resident with a 7,500 sq. ft. lot.



For more information

To learn more about water conservation, water and wastewater rates, water budgets, and more, [click here](http://centennialwater.org/faq) or visit centennialwater.org/faq.