

# BOZEMAN<sup>MT</sup> HOW TO READ YOUR UTILITY STATEMENT

A glossary and guide to understanding your utility statement and water usage.

**BOZEMAN<sup>MT</sup>**  
121 NORTH ROUSE AVENUE  
PO BOX 1230  
BOZEMAN MT 59771-1230

Water Sewer Stormwater Garbage/Recycling

Utility/Billing Questions Please Call (406) 582-2333

Pay or View your bill online at [www.bozeman.net](http://www.bozeman.net)

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**YOUR MONTHLY STATEMENT**

Account Number  
**55555-55555**

Due Date  
**08/15/2021**

Amount Due Now  
**\$256.69**

ACCOUNT NAME: JOHN Q. EXAMPLE  
SERVICE ADDRESS: 123 EXAMPLE AVE  
RATE CLASS: RESIDENTIAL  
CYCLE/ROUTE: 00-00 BILLING DATE: 07/29/2021

**1 MONTHLY USAGE** (1 HCF=748 GALLONS)

METER ID	READ DATES	DAYS	PREVIOUS METER READ	CURRENT METER READ	USAGE	UNIT
12945978	06/02/21 - 07/02/21	30	885.90	930.20	44.30	HCF

**2 YOUR HISTORICAL USAGE (IN GALLONS)**

How does my water usage compare (in gallons)

Category	Usage (Gallons)
Efficient Neighbors	~10,000
My Service Address	~28,000
All single family residential neighbors	~15,000

**3 IMPORTANT MESSAGE**

This is a space where the City will include important messages about drought, changes to your utility statement, and other messages.

**4 RATE CLASS**

Indicates the type of water customer you are and determines the price you'll pay based on your USAGE.

MULTI-FAMILY - Set rate based on USAGE.

COMMERCIAL - Set rate based on USAGE.

RESIDENTIAL - Tiered rate billing structure based on USAGE. Each tier has a different rate per HCF used, increasing from one tier to the next.

The tier structure is:

- Tier 1 (USAGE 0-6 HCF)
- Tier 2 (USAGE 6-25 HCF)
- Tier 3 (USAGE 25-55 HCF)
- Tier 4 (USAGE 55 HCF and over)

**BOTTOM LINE** As a residential customer, the more water you use, the more you will pay per HCF of water.

**5 CURRENT CHARGE SUMMARY**

A breakdown of your water charges based on your USAGE.

DESCRIPTION	USAGE	CHARGE
<b>WATER SERVICE</b>		
WATER SERVICE CHARGE		\$16.17
MINIMUM FIRST 2 HCF	2.00	\$4.80
USAGE 2-6 HCF	4.00	\$9.60
USAGE 6-25	19.30	\$61.56
USAGE 25-55	19.30	\$87.62
DROUGHT RESERVE	44.30	\$3.54
<b>TOTAL WATER</b>		<b>183.29</b>
<b>SEWER SERVICE</b>		
SEWER SERVICE CHARGE		\$19.58
USAGE PER HCF	3.50	\$11.48
<b>TOTAL SEWER</b>		<b>\$31.06</b>
<b>STORMWATER SERVICE</b>		
STORMWATER CHARGE	06/30/2021 - 07/31/2021	\$3.53
STORMWATER ERU'S	06/30/2021 - 07/31/2021	\$2.93
<b>TOTAL STORMWATER</b>		<b>\$6.46</b>
<b>GARBAGE/RECYCLING SERVICE</b>		
100 GALLON TOTE	06/30/2021 - 07/31/2021	\$25.95
100 GAL RECYCLE TOTE	06/30/2021 - 07/31/2021	\$9.59
<b>TOTAL GARBAGE/RECYCLING</b>		<b>\$35.80</b>
<b>TOTAL CURRENT CHARGES</b>		<b>\$256.69</b>

**\*\* AUTO PAY - DO NOT PAY \*\***

**6 SEWER SERVICE**

**SEWER SERVICE CHARGE** Fee assessed for sewer maintenance and operations. This charge will vary based on your RATE CLASS and the number of DAYS in the billing period.

**USAGE PER HCF** A proportional charge, based on your MONTHLY USAGE, which helps support costs associated with treatment of the wastewater from your home. When you conserve indoor water use associated with your MONTHLY USAGE, you also reduce the amount of water entering the sewer, which in turn reduces your monthly sewer bill.

**7 STORMWATER SERVICE**

**STORMWATER CHARGE** A flat charge that funds stormwater maintenance.

**STORMWATER ERU'S** A charge which funds utility operation and system enhancement costs. Equivalent Residential Unit (ERU) is the average impervious area for all single-family residential properties (2,700 sqft).

**8 GARBAGE/RECYCLING SERVICE**

**X GALLON TOTE** Size of your garbage tote and the monthly charge for the tote and weekly garbage pickup service.

**X GAL RECYCLE TOTE** Size of your recycling tote (if you use the City's recycling service) and the monthly charge for the tote and biweekly pickup service.

**1 MONTHLY USAGE**

A basic view of water usage as read by your home's meter. Your meter works like a car odometer, recording the cumulative amount of water that has passed through the meter. Water usage is calculated in hundred cubic feet (HCF). Each UNIT of 1 HCF is equal to approximately 748 gallons.

**READ DATES** The timeframe of measured water use that appears on the current bill.

**DAYS** The number of days of water usage represented on the bill cycle.

**PREVIOUS METER READ** The total volumetric reading (in HCF) shown at the time of the prior month's meter read.

**CURRENT METER READ** The total volumetric reading (HCF) shown at the time of the current meter read.

**USAGE** Total usage for the READ DATES in units of hundred cubic feet (HCF).  
Measured by: CURRENT METER READ – PREVIOUS METER READ = USAGE  
Example: CURRENT METER READ (930.20) – PREVIOUS METER READ (885.9) = USAGE (44.3 HCF)

**2 YOUR HISTORICAL USAGE (IN GALLONS)**

Shows your water USAGE over the last 12 months and compares your current billing month's water USAGE with Bozeman averages.

- + Each vertical bar on the graph represents a billing month, showing your home's water USAGE trends over the previous 12 months.
- + You can also compare your home's water USAGE in the current billing month (dark blue horizontal bar) to your most efficient neighbors (green horizontal bar) and the Bozeman residential use average (orange horizontal bar).

**3 IMPORTANT MESSAGE**

Learn more about City declared droughts, changes to the billing process, and other relevant information pertaining to updates on the utility statement.

- 4 RATE CLASS** Indicates the type of water customer you are and determines the price you'll pay based on your USAGE.
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  - COMMERCIAL - Set rate based on USAGE.
  - RESIDENTIAL - Tiered rate billing structure based on USAGE. Each tier has a different rate per HCF used, increasing from one tier to the next.
    - The tier structure is:
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  - BOTTOM LINE** As a residential customer, the more water you use, the more you will pay per HCF of water.
- 5 CURRENT CHARGE SUMMARY** A breakdown of your water charges based on your USAGE.
- 6 WATER SERVICE**
  - WATER SERVICE CHARGE** Fee assessed for the maintenance of the water distribution and water treatment systems. The charge will vary depending on the number of DAYS in the billing cycle and your meter size.
  - MINIMUM FIRST 2 HCF** All customers are charged a minimum flat rate for the first 2 HCF of water usage.
  - USAGE TIERS** Shows the amount of water used in total, separated into the established residential usage Tiers for residential customers. See above for rate tiers listed by usage.
  - DROUGHT RESERVE** A \$0.08/HCF based on your USAGE is applied to all Bozeman water customers throughout the year regardless of a drought declaration. This revenue reserve may only be used when drought is declared to maintain water systems and operations during a drought event and helps avoid extreme increases in water rates during an outdoor watering ban.
  - DROUGHT SURCHARGE** In the event of a declared drought, a drought surcharge will be added to your utility bill. This charge is reflected as a percent increase in the volumetric water rate and will vary based on the declared drought stage and your rate class.
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