

RESIDENTIAL SPRINKLER CHARGES



ARE YOU SERVED BY A WATER UTILITY & DO YOU HAVE A SPRINKLER SYSTEM IN YOUR HOME?

? Why am I being charged?

Utilities provide a 24/7, on demand service, of a large quantity of fast flowing water that can be used in the event of a fire. For water utilities, their infrastructure is their greatest expense, not the water itself. The monthly or quarterly charge passed on to customers reflects the cost of access to the reliable source of water for emergencies.

\$ How much am I being charged?

How utilities structure their charges and their rates vary by utility. The rates are based on the cost of providing the service.

Examples:

- If you have one water line coming into your home that serves household purposes as well as your sprinkler system, the pipe may be sized larger than a typical residential pipe and your rate for all water use may be higher than a residence with no sprinklers.
- If you have two water lines coming into your home, you may have two charges, one based on metered domestic consumption and/or a minimum charge and another for having access to on-demand water for the sprinkler system.

What will the charge look like?

Your bill may have two separate charges—one for everyday water use and another for the sprinkler system—or it may be one charge for all of your water. Those charges vary by utility, based on utility rates which are set by utilities during a rate case.



For more information reach out to your utility or see Chapter 640 of the Commission's Rules

This flyer is intended for informational purposes only. This information is not legal advice and does not set any legal standard. Regulated public utilities must comply with Maine law and regulations and should consult with legal counsel for interpretation of laws and regulations.