

How to Read Your Utility Bill

Every month, you receive a utility bill from the City of Bay City. This bill includes a list of charges and rates that have been applied to your account, based on your household's usage of each utility for that billing cycle.

Your bill shows the various components that make up the Total Due amount. This informational guide has been created in order to help our customers understand their utility bills.

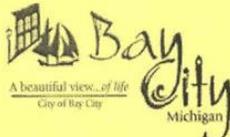
A sample bill is arranged below. Each section is labeled with a letter. The letters and their corresponding sections will be explained in detail below.

If you have a question on your utility bill, please have your account number available and call Customer Service at (989) 894-8104.

CITY OF BAY CITY
ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE
 301 WASHINGTON AVE
 BAY CITY MI 48708-5866
 1-989-894-8104

CITY OF BAY CITY

UTILITY BILL



SERVICE ADDRESS:
 900 S WATER ST

A { 123412341 23
 NAME NAME
 900 S WATER ST
 BAY CITY MI 48708-3664 07

DUE DATE	TOTAL DUE
10/22/10	198.02

SERVICE	DATE	BEGINNING METER READING	READING	TYPE	DATE	ENDING METER READING	READING	TYPE	DAYS	TOTAL USAGE
ELEC	8/06/10	16871		A	9/10/10	17891		A	35	1020
WATR SP	8/06/10	73		A	9/10/10	73		A	35	0
WATR RM	8/06/10	782		A	9/10/10	787		A	35	5

UTILITY RATES AND CHARGES/DESCRIPTIONS

H Water.....	0	5.00	CFW @	3.15000	5/8" WATER					
Sewer.....	0	5.00	CFW @	9.85000	5/8" SEWER					15.75
I Sewer.....	0	SERVICE CHARGE								3.03
J Sewer.....	0	35	DAYS @	.32400						11.34
Other Elec RIG1	1020.00	KWH @	.000825	RESIDENTIAL SURC	K					.84
Other Elec RIG1	1020.00	KWH @	.000126	LOW INCOME SURC	L					.13
Electric.. RIG1	700.00	KWH @	.08970	ENERGY CHARGE	M					62.79
Electric.. RIG1	320.00	KWH @	.10300	ENERGY CHARGE	N					32.96
Electric..	1020.00	KWH @	.000530-	FUEL COST ADJUST	O					.54-
Electric.. RIG1	SERVICE CHARGE		P							7.90
Tax..... RIG1	SALES TAX		Q							4.12
R TRASH	SLDW	SOLID WASTE								10.45

S

TOTAL BILL	198.02
PREVIOUS BALANCE	
TOTAL DUE	198.02
PAYMENT AFTER 10/22/10	201.78

MAKE BUDGETING EASIER WITH
 BUDGET BILLING-CALL 894-8104.

LAST PAYMENT DATE 9/17/2010 AMOUNT PAID: 265.95

123412341 23
 NAME NAME
 900 S WATER ST

T

UTILITY BILL

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE: BAY CITY TREASURER

TOTAL DUE	ENTER PAYMENT HERE
198.02	

RETURN THIS PORTION WITH PAYMENT



MAIL TO:
 CITY OF BAY CITY
 TREASURER'S OFFICE
 301 WASHINGTON AVE
 BAY CITY MI 48708-5866

A

This part of your bill states your account number, name, and address. Note that sometimes, especially with business accounts, the service address and billing address will not be the same. Please include your account number on your check to assure your payment is credited to the correct account.

B

Section B lists each of the different services that were read for the cycle for which you are being billed. This bill has three services; Electric, Water (SP) and Water (RM). Water (SP) is a second meter on your home, usually for sprinklers or swimming pools. This service is for water usage only and does not include a sewer charge. Water (RM) is a domestic meter and is for standard residential water service. This service is for both water and sewer usage.

C

This section shows Day 1 of the cycle you are being billed for. In this bill, it is 8/06/10. "Reading" is what the City's Meter Readers read on that date for your home's meters.

D

"Type" will typically list either "A" for an actual read or "E" for an estimated read. All other code types are listed on the back of your bill. Reasons for estimation versus actual read could be that the meter reader could not enter your property, due to a locked gate or animal on the premises.

E

This section shows the date and reading at the end of your billing cycle.

F

"Days" shows how long your billing cycle is for, or the number of days that have passed between readings. Be sure to see how long your bill cycle was for. This could explain why a bill is higher or lower than a previous bill. The utilities' goal is to read your meters every 30 days; however this cannot always be accomplished. Your cycle may be longer than 30 days due to winter weather or staff shortages.

G

"Total Usage" shows the difference in reading amounts between the first day and final day. This is what you used during this billing cycle. For electric, this shows kWh (kilowatt/hours) and for water and sewer this shows CFW (cubic feet water)

H

This line begins the section which lists the rates for each service, as well as a description of what you are being charged for. Water and Sewer are read in units of CFW. The rates for Water and Sewer are \$3.15000 and \$9.85000, respectively. This bill shows 5 CFW was used during the billing cycle, multiplied by the rate for the respective utility (\$3.15000 or \$9.85000), equals your total charge. The number 5/8" describes the meter size for your home. This number can vary, and other sizes are listed on the back of your bill.

I

The billing charge for the sewer fund's portion of the cost to read the meter, send the bill, and support Accounts Receivable.

J

The "Readiness to Serve" charge or the fixed fee for each customer, which is used to pay for debt retirement of sewer bonds. The charge is currently \$9.72/mo which is prorated on a daily basis.

K

This line begins the section which lists all of your electric utility charges. There are different residential electric service rate codes. They are listed on the back of your bill. This bill's is "RIG1", or "Standard Residential Service". The amount of kWh used for the cycle being billed for is multiplied by the rate of that specific component (in this bill, 1020 kWh x rate). These charges are mandated by Public Act 295 to generate revenue for Bay City's Energy Optimization program. The residential surcharge rate is currently \$.000825/kWh. (This number will increase slightly in 2011.)

L

This is a low income surcharge, similar to Line K, with a rate of \$.000126/kWh. (This number will increase slightly in 2011.)

M

For June through September, your energy charge is figured for the first 20 kWhs per day of average use at a rate of \$.0897. To calculate this bill, the cycle, 35 days, is multiplied by 20 kWh per day, with a result of 700 kWh. This number is multiplied by the rate. $700 \text{ kWh} \times \$0.0897 = \62.97

N

After 20 kWhs has been exceeded, a rate of \$.1030 per kWh is charged. The remaining kWh used during the month (in this case, 320 kWh) is multiplied by the corresponding rate. $320 \text{ kWh} \times \$0.1030 = \32.96 . (Your energy charge will be calculated by only one rate [\$.0840] for the billing months of October through May.)

O

The utility charges a fuel cost adjustment, which takes into account the changing cost purchased power including the cost of fuel needed to produce your electricity. This amount can be a credit or a charge depended on other expenses. If the cost of purchased power was overestimated, you will receive the savings. This bill shows a credit, or savings, of \$0.54.

P

This is a fixed service charge for Electric that help cover the costs of distribution facilities, metering, and billing. These costs remain the same regardless of electric usage.

Q

This is the sales tax on the cost of the power you use.

R

A monthly charge for waste and recyclable collection services.

S

Section S lists the total amount due for this bill. It may also list a previous balance owed. In this bill, there is none, therefore total due is the same as total bill.

T

This informs you how much the bill will increase if you do not pay the balance by the due date. In this bill, the balance will increase by 2.0%.