



Sewer System Frequently Asked Questions

Who must connect to the system?

All property owners are required by Municipal By-law to connect to the sewer system, unless you have a properly functioning on-site sewage system or your property is located more than 100 feet from the street. Property owners are required to apply for an exemption. Holding tanks or other similar systems will not qualify as an approved system. Our by-law provides a one year grace period for property owners to connect to the system once it has been operational.

Do all property owners pay even if they do not connect to the system.

Although a property may not be physically connected to the system, the Municipality does charge a yearly amount for the sewer pipes going by any property. A frontage charge of 30 per cent (\$60.00) of the annual usage charge will be billed to properties.

What will the yearly cost be?

The Municipality will invoice a property owner an amount for the cost of operation and maintenance of the system and 1% depreciation rate for capital replacement reserve. This fee is calculated on a yearly basis beginning April 1, 2007 and is currently set at \$ 200.00 per equivalent unit. Schedule B of the Municipal Bylaw provides details on equivalent units. Sewer charges are considered to be a tax levy under the Municipal Government Act. As such the Municipality uses its normal tax collection procedures and billing mechanisms for the amounts.

What is the process for connecting to the system?

The Municipality requires that each property owner complete a sewer agreement and an application to connect to the system. The completed

agreement and application may be sent to the Public Works Department at P.O. Box 429, Digby, Nova Scotia, B0V 1A0 or dropped off at our offices.

Property Owner's Responsibility

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Property owners will be responsible for the cost of connecting their buildings and structures to the sewer system. The sewer lateral and lines have only been installed to the property line (approximately 33 feet from centre of the road). Property owners will be responsible for contacting a contractor to make the installation from their buildings to the lateral.

When can properties connect to the system?

The system is expected to be available for connection by the 15th of October. Once the Municipality receives the application and agreement to connect owners may connect to the system. All connections will require inspection by the Municipality. Please contact the Municipal Public Works Department at 245-6776 to arrange for an inspection at least 24 hour before you beginning work to connect. The Municipality requires an inspection to be completed prior to back filling of the connection to ensure that proper materials have been used.

What happens to existing on-site systems?

The Municipality does not allow for existing on-site system to be connected to our system. Existing septic tanks or privies should be removed and/or drained and filled in.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- It is highly recommended that property owners have a plumber verify traps and venting are properly installed in the dwelling prior to connection.
- Houses/structures with fixtures below street level will require additional protection mechanisms when connecting to prevent back flows or flooding.

SCHEDULE B**Operating Charges**

	Equivalent Unit
Single Family Dwelling/Mobile Home	1.0
with swimming pool add	1.0
with barber/beauty shop in home	0.75
Apartment Building (per apartment)	1.0
Doctor or Dentist Office	1.0
Beauty Shop	1.0
Hotels, Motels and Tourist Cottages	
With housekeeping facilities, each room or unit	.50
Without housekeeping facilities, each room or unit	.30
Tourist Home (Bed & Breakfast) 1 washroom	1.0
each additional washroom add	0.30
Stores, Banks, clubs recreational facilities, barber shops and places of business including industrial premises	
1st washroom	1.0
each additional washroom add	0.50
Tourist Trailor Park	
With hook-up facilities, per unit space	.75
Without hook-up facilities, per unit space	.30
Churches and Church Halls per washroom	0.30
Fraternal Organizations	0.30
Laundromat (each machine)	1.0
Service Station	2.0
for each car wash bay add	2.0
Restaurants	1.0
for every five seats add	0.25

ANNUAL CHARGES = TOTAL NUMBER OF EQUIVALENT UNITS (MULTIPLIED BY) ANNUAL RATE