

North Chelmsford Water District

P.O. Box 655
North Chelmsford, MA 01863
(978) 251-3931

Rules, Regulations & Rates- 2018

The following Rules and Regulations shall be considered a part of the Contract with every person using water:

1. All applications for the use of water are available at the North Chelmsford Water District, 64 Washington Street, N. Chelmsford, MA 01863. Demand charge schedule is set forth November 7, 1988, revised September 1, 2006, **revised April 4, 2016:**

DATE		DOMESTIC DEMAND CHARGE (per dwelling)
4/04/2016	Residential: construction of 1-3 dwellings	\$ 3,000
4/04/2016	Residential: construction of 4+ dwellings	5,000
4/04/2016	Commercial	5,000

EFFECTIVE 1/1/86 FIRE SPRINKLER DEMAND CHARGES- REVISED 4/6/16

Buildings up to	19,999 Sq. Ft.	Minimum Size 6" Main	\$5,000
Buildings between	20,000 Sq. Ft.	and 39,999 Sq. Ft.	6,000
Buildings between	40,000 Sq. Ft.	and 59,999 Sq. Ft.	7,000
Buildings between	60,000 Sq. Ft.	and 79,999 Sq. Ft.	8,000
Buildings between	80,000 Sq. Ft.	and 99,999 Sq. Ft.	9,000
Buildings over	100,000 Sq. Ft.		10,000

Water Rates- Effective 7/1/2018

North Chelmsford Water District

Notice of Water Rate Increase

Effective July 1, 2018

Residential	0-15,000 gals.	15,001 gals. +
	Semi-annual Minimum per unit	Rate per Thousand
Old Rate	\$75.00	\$4.50
New Rate	\$80.00	\$5.00

*These rates are effective beginning with **WATER** bills issued July 1, 2018. The District last raised minimum water rates on July 1, 2013. The overage was last increased in July 2013*

Commercial	Quarterly Minimum per unit	Rate per Thousand	Rate per Thousand	Rate per Thousand
Old Rate	\$75.00	\$4.50	\$5.00	\$5.50
Old Usage	0-15,000 gals.	15,001-30,000 gals.	30,001-50,000 gals.	>50,000 gals.
New Rate	\$80.00	\$5.00	\$5.50	\$6.00
New Usage	0-15,000 gals.	15,001-30,000 gals.	30,001-45,000 gals.	>45,000 gals.

Yearly Fire Sprinkler Fees- Effective January 1, 1986

Area of Building	Per Year
Buildings up to 9,999 ft ²	\$200.00
Buildings between 10,000 ft ² and 19,999 ft ²	220.00
Buildings between 20,000 ft ² and 29,999 ft ²	240.00
Buildings between 30,000 ft ² and 39,999 ft ²	300.00
Buildings between 40,000 ft ² and 49,999 ft ²	360.00
Buildings between 50,000 ft ² and 59,999 ft ²	420.00
Buildings between 60,000 ft ² and 69,999 ft ²	480.00
Buildings between 70,000 ft ² and 79,999 ft ²	540.00
Buildings between 80,000 ft ² and 89,999 ft ²	600.00
Buildings between 90,000 ft ² and 99,999 ft ²	660.00
Buildings between 100,000 ft ² and 149,999 ft ²	960.00
Buildings between 150,000 ft ² and 199,999 ft ²	1230.00
Buildings over 200,000 ft ²	1500.00

Note: Building areas are determined by Chelmsford Assessors' Records

Bond Debt Fees- Effective 1/1/2008

Residential:

Service Size	Fee
5/8" or 3/4"	60.00
1"	75.00
1 1/2"	100.00
2"	125.00
3"	150.00
4"	175.00

Each additional unit is \$20.00. Bond fees will be billed in April and October.

Commercial:

Service Size	Fee
5/8" or 3/4"	50.00
1"	75.00
1 1/2"	100.00
2"	175.00
3"	175.00
4"	175.00

Each additional unit is \$25.00. Bond fees will be billed quarterly.

Fire Sprinkler Bond Debt Fees:

Area of Building	Per Year
Buildings up to 9,999 ft ²	\$50.00
Buildings between 10,000 ft ² and 19,999 ft ²	100.00
Buildings between 20,000 ft ² and 29,999 ft ²	150.00
Buildings between 30,000 ft ² and 39,999 ft ²	200.00
Buildings between 40,000 ft ² and 49,999 ft ²	250.00
Buildings between 50,000 ft ² and 59,999 ft ²	300.00
Buildings between 60,000 ft ² and 69,999 ft ²	350.00
Buildings between 70,000 ft ² and 79,999 ft ²	400.00
Buildings between 80,000 ft ² and 89,999 ft ²	450.00
Buildings between 90,000 ft ² and 99,999 ft ²	500.00
Buildings between 100,000 ft ² and 149,999 ft ²	750.00
Buildings between 150,000 ft ² and 199,999 ft ²	1000.00
Buildings between 200,000 ft ² and 249,000 ft ²	1125.00
Buildings over 250,000 ft ²	1250.00

Fire Sprinkler Bond Debt Fees will be billed quarterly.

Note: Bond Fees are in addition to water charges.

Miscellaneous Fees

Backflow Testing Charge	\$75.00 per device
Backflow Re-Testing Charge	75.00 per device
Hydrant Flow Testing Charge	100.00 per test
Transfer of Account/Final Meter Reading Charge	75.00
Pressure Testing/Chlorinating/Sampling Charge	360.00 minimum
Shutting Off or Turning On Water Charge	50.00

Note: Special Services will not be provided unless Water and Bond Debt Fee accounts are paid in full. All bills are due and payable within 30 days. Overdue bills are subject to an interest charge of 14% per annum effective July 1, 1994 + \$5.00 Demand Charge.

Non-Payment Shut Off/Turn On Charge- \$50.00 each.

2. Pipe size and type for any installation will be determined by the Water Commissioners or their Agents. Cost of installation, service, materials and demand charges are payable prior to service connection.

All materials used within the North Chelmsford Water District will be purchased according to the "Uniform Procurement Act" Chapter 30B of the Massachusetts General Laws signed into Law, January 10, 1990.

All materials are to be purchased through the North Chelmsford Water District with an additional 25% overhead added in. All costs are to be paid for before ordering materials per order of the Water Commissioners.

3. No person will connect, or cause to be connected, any service pipe with the main or any distribution pipes, except by order of the Water Commissioners made on such application for new service.
4. Periodic inspections of pipes to the meter may be made by the Water District Superintendent or Employees. When the equipment is found to be defective, all payment for necessary repairs between the property line and the meter shall be assessed by the owner. Persons allowing their meter to be damaged by frost or otherwise will be held responsible, therefore. The Water District will keep Residential meters 5/8" and 3/4" in repair from ordinary derangements. The cost of testing, maintenance and/or replacement of Commercial and Industrial meters are the responsibility of the owner under the direction of the Water District.
5. All apparatus and all places supplied with water must be accessible at all reasonable times to the inspection of the Commissioners or their Agents. "No person other than an employee in the service of the Commonwealth or any political subdivision thereof, or in the service of an independent contractor acting for the Commonwealth or any such subdivision, shall pile, push, or plow snow or ice on or against any fire hydrant or other similar device used for fire protection, which is located in any public or private way, so as to conceal such hydrant or device to cover any outlet thereof. Whoever violates this section shall be punished by fine of not more than \$100.00 (One Hundred Dollars)." Pursuant to Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 148, Section 27B.

6. No alterations shall be made to the service installed by the Water District except by authorized Agents of the Water District.
7. The Water District shall not in any way, nor under any circumstances, be held liable or responsible to any person or persons for any loss or damage from any excess or deficiency in the pressure, volume or supply of water, due to any cause whatsoever. The Water District will undertake to use all reasonable care and diligence to avoid interruptions and fluctuations in the service but cannot and does not guarantee that such will not occur.
8. The Water District will not be responsible for damage caused by dirty water resulting from opening or closing any gate valves, fire hydrants, or the breaking of any supply lines for repairs or any other reasons.
9. The Water District will endeavor to give due notice to as many of the customers affected as time and character of the work permit, whenever it may be necessary to shut off the water supply from any section of the Water District to make repairs or changes or because of broken water mains, will as far as practicable, use every effort to prevent damage or inconvenience; but failure to give such notice will not involve the Water District in any responsibility or liability for damage arising from the shutting off of any supply or any subsequent conditions arising there from.
10. The Water District reserves the right at any time without notice to shut off the water supply for purpose of making repairs, extensions, or other reasons, and all consumers having boilers or other appliances on their properties are hereby warned against danger of collapse from these sources and are urged to provide safety devices for their own protection. In any event, the Water District expressly stipulates that there shall be no liability for damages resulting there from.
11. The Water District will not assume any liability for conditions in the consumer's plumbing or appliances, which may be the cause of the trouble, coincident with the following repairs made to any part for the supply system by the Water District.
12. Service pipes or fixtures of any description, which are connected with the mains of the Water District, shall not under any circumstances be connected with any other sources of water supply.
13. The Water Commissioners reserve the right to shut off water for the purpose of making alterations or repairs. A water service may be shut off from any taker for non-compliance with the Rules and Regulations, non-payment of the water rates and/or fees and violation of Massachusetts General Laws relating to water supply. When water has been shut off because of disregard of Rules or non-payment of rates and/or fees it will be turned on again when the Commissioners are satisfied that there will be no further cause of complaint and on the payment of \$100.00 (One Hundred Dollars). With the approval of the Department of Environmental Protection (Chapter 40, Section 41A, Massachusetts General Laws), the Commissioners reserve the right to restrict the use of water if necessary in any manner deemed appropriate.

14. The Fire Department will have control of the hydrants in case of fires and for necessary practice. In no other case will any person be allowed to handle hydrants or other water apparatus without permission of the Water Commissioners.
15. No water taker will be allowed to supply water to others except by special permit from the Board of Water Commissioners and found doing so without a permit; the supply will be shut off.
16. Owners shall notify the Water District to shut off water if the building becomes vacant. Water will be turned on again when the owner notifies the Water District and upon payment of \$50.00 (Fifty Dollars) for turn-on charge.
17. All bills for new services, repairing old services, supplies, and labor, must be paid within thirty days (30) from the date of the bill.
18. The water may be turned off after a seventy-two hour (72) signed shut off notice by the Water Commissioners or Agent and is delivered by hand or mail to premises to be shut off, when bills for water remain unpaid for forty-five days (45) after they become due, which is forty-five days (45) from the date of issue.
 - a. Under the State Sanitary Code, Chapter II, the owner shall provide, for the occupant of every dwelling, dwelling unit, and rooming unit, a supply of potable water sufficient in quantity and pressure to meet the ordinary needs of the occupant, connected with the public water supply system, or with any other source that the board of health has determined does not endanger the health of any potential user. (See 105 CMR 410.350 through 410.352).
 - b. In dwellings that are in compliance with the requirements of M.G.L. c. 186, § 22, the owner may charge the occupants for actual water usage in accordance with M.G.L. c. 186, § 22. An owner may not shut off or refuse water service to an occupant on the basis that the occupant has not paid a separately assessed water usage charge.
 - c. Unpaid water bills are now liens on real estate and, collections may be made on the sale of property: Massachusetts Legislature, Act of 1923, Chapter 391.
19. Any person who shall remove, change, alter or willfully damage or injure any meter, will be liable for all damages. Any change in meter location shall be done under the direction of the Superintendent.
20. On all dwelling houses, apartments and condominiums, a minimum charge shall be made for water for each family or living unit for which the owner or owners shall be liable, if it is desired that all water flow through one meter. Larger quantities of water shall be charged on the above same basis.

The Water Superintendent or authorized Agent shall be empowered by the Commissioners to confer with the owner or his agent to establish the number of facilities for which the minimum service charge shall be made. The minimum payment will be applied toward the charge for the water at the rates established under the Rules and Regulations for the Water Commission; but, if less quantity of water is used than

the quantity for which the minimum charge would be due, no deduction from the minimum charge will be made.

21. Any person violating any order restricting water use imposed by vote of the Commissioners shall be fined not more than \$300.00 (Three Hundred Dollars) for each offense, which shall inure to the Water District for such uses as the Commissioners may direct. Fines shall be recovered by indictment or on complaint before the District Court, or by non-criminal disposition in accordance with Section Twenty-One D of Chapter 10 of the General Laws. Every day that such violation continues shall constitute a separate offense. See Appendix for Water Management Program information, Violation forms, and Lawn Irrigation Permits.
22. If a meter is out of order and fails to register, the consumer will be charged at the average daily consumption as shown by the meter when in order. An average will be taken of the last three (3) corresponding readings.
There will be a minimum \$75.00 (Seventy-five Dollar) non-refundable transfer fee for all new customers for a final reading and transfer.
23. Any and all penalties for violations of these Regulations or arrearages for non-payment of water rates or charges, may be collected as authorized by law in a civil action.
24. The Commissioners shall regulate the use of water in such manner as they deem for the best interest of the Water District, fix and collect process and rates for the use thereof, prescribe the time and manner of the payment of such prices and rates. The Commissioners shall have exclusive charge and control of the water department and water system, subject to all lawful by-laws and subject to such instructions as the Water District may from time to time impose by its vote.
25. The Water District will have an inspector on sites where new water mains and necessary fittings are installed in new developments, private roads, business and commercial sites. The Water District shall charge an hourly fee which will be paid to the Water District by the owner, contractor or developer at the rate of 1 ½ times the employees hourly rate. All materials used shall meet the specifications and approvals of the North Chelmsford Water District.
26. No person shall turn on or tamper with water mains or hydrants or other devices used for water supply, or install a bypass around a water meter without first procuring a written permit to do so from the Water Commissioners or authorized Agent from the Water District. Any person violating said section shall be fined not more than \$200.00 (Two Hundred Dollars) for each offense, which shall inure to the Water District or be recovered by indictment or on complaint before the District Court or by non-criminal disposition in accordance with Section 21D of Chapter 40 of the General Laws. Every day that such violation continues shall constitute a separate offense. This section shall not curtail the Fire Department of Water District in the normal course of providing fire protection or water supply.
27. Taken from Municipal Bulletin No. 29, Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 40 Section 39H "Right to aid other governmental units; compensation": "A city, town or district through its water department, if any, if thereunto authorized by ordinance or by-law, or by-law or vote of

its governing body if a district, or a water company, as defined in section one of chapter one hundred and sixty five, may go to aid in any other city, town or district or any other water company, as so defined, in repairing and maintaining the physical properties of its water supply system. Any such ordinance, by-law or vote may authorize the head of the water department to extend such aid, subject to such conditions and restrictions as may be prescribed therein. Members of water departments of cities, towns, and districts while in the performance of their duties in extending such aid shall have the same immunities and privileges as if performing the same work in their respective cities, towns and districts. Any city, town, district or water company aided under this section shall compensate any city, town, district or water company rendering aid as aforesaid, for such aid and for the whole or any part of any damage to its property sustained in the course of rendering such aid.”

28. Any person making application for water use having a design demand in excess of 5,000 gallons per day, shall submit a concept plan with sufficient information so that the Water District can generate a Water Impact Report. This report shall: 1) define the plan’s impact on the Water District’s current and future water demand and existing water supply system, and 2) stipulate conditions that the applicant shall meet to mitigate the effects of this impact. This Water Impact Report shall be reviewed and approved by the Water Commissioners. Costs associated with generating the Water Impact Report shall be borne by the applicant.

29. A) PUBLIC BUILDINGS having meters, paying current minimum and overage rates:

- Chelmsford Highway Department
- North Chelmsford Fire Department
- Mackay Library
- Old North Town Hall

B) PUBLIC BUILDINGS including CEMETERIES waived from paying a minimum rate, but monitored to a minimal usage, no automatic lawn sprinklers or excessive water usage allowed:

- Wotton Lane Sewer Pump Station- waived 1/7/91
- Richardson Road Sewer Pump Station- waived 1/7/91
- Wiede Street Sewer Pump Station- waived 1/7/91
- Riverside Cemetery- waived 4/1/91
- Fairview Cemetery
- Southwell Field Sewer Pump Station
- Willis Drive Sewer Pump Station
- Ledge Road Sewer Pump Station
- Vinal Square Common

30. The Water Commissioners reserve the right to change the water rates or the Rules and Regulations.