

**DOWNERS GROVE SANITARY DISTRICT**  
**SURCHARGE PROGRAM INFORMATION SHEET**

**A) WHY A SURCHARGE PROGRAM?**

In order to construct required wastewater treatment plant improvements, the Downers Grove Sanitary District received federal grants from the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). As a condition of receiving these grants, the District is required to have in effect an equitable system of charging District users for the costs of operating and maintaining District facilities. This cost recovery system is required to comply with USEPA regulations which state that such a system provide for an equitable assessment of the costs of waste treatment, taking into account the volume and strength of the industrial, domestic, and commercial wastes received by the District. In compliance with these regulations, the District revised its user charge ordinance to include a surcharge program in April of 1978.

**B) WHAT IS A SURCHARGE PROGRAM?**

The surcharge program is a part, or component, of a total user charge system. A user charge system is required by USEPA to more proportionately spread the operation, maintenance, and replacement costs of wastewater collection and treatment between residential, institutional, governmental, commercial, and industrial users. The Downers Grove Sanitary District user charge system consists of:

- 1) A base user charge that all users must pay based upon metered water usage.
- 2) A surcharge that commercial and industrial users must pay based upon waste strengths when these wastes are in excess of average domestic sewage.
- 3) Monthly fees which consist of a service fee assessed to all users and a sampling and monitoring charge assessed to each commercial and industrial user.

The surcharge program is based upon two accepted measures of the strength of wastewater - Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) and Suspended Solids (SS). These parameters directly affect the degree and cost of treatment which the District must provide in order to reduce these pollutants to acceptable levels. Any user whose wastewater exceeds threshold limits of 200 milligrams per liter (mg/l) of BOD or 250 mg/l of SS is assessed a surcharge.

In order to identify those users whose wastewater exceeds these limits, a sampling and analysis program is necessary. Wastewater discharges from users who may be subject to surcharge are sampled, if possible, and tested on a periodic basis. The results of this sampling and testing then determine the surcharge rate for that user.

**C) WHAT ARE THE SURCHARGE RATES AND HOW ARE THEY CALCULATED?**

In accordance with District ordinances, the surcharge is computed by the following formula:

$$SC = [B_C (B_A - B) + S_C (S_A - S)] \times V \times 8.34 \times 10^{-6}$$

where SC = Amount of surcharge (\$) per billing period

B<sub>C</sub> = Treatment cost for one pound of biochemical oxygen demand (BOD). (Effective 3/31/18, this cost is \$0.26.)

B<sub>A</sub> = Average measured concentration of BOD from user during billing period in mg/l.

B = Average concentration of BOD in normal domestic sewage or 200 mg/l.

S<sub>C</sub> = Treatment cost for one pound of suspended solids (SS). (Effective 3/31/18, this cost is \$0.33.)

S<sub>A</sub> = Average measured concentration of SS from user during billing period in mg/l.

S = Average concentration of SS in normal domestic sewage or 250 mg/l.

V = Total volume contribution from user during billing period in gallons.

**D) HOW WILL THE SURCHARGE RATES BE APPLIED TO MY BUSINESS?**

If the wastewater from your facility flows through an inspection manhole, the District will periodically sample the wastewater by taking twenty-four hour composite samples on three consecutive days. The wastewater is then analyzed for the two parameters - BOD and SS. The results of this analysis are then applied to the above formula and the surcharge rate is calculated.

If the wastewater from your facility cannot be sampled, a surcharge rate of \$3.30 per 1000 gallons is applied.

In addition to the surcharge, a monthly sampling and monitoring charge is applied. This fee covers costs of the District's annual surcharge sampling program. The amount of the charge is based on the classification of the user. This sampling and monitoring charge, the surcharge, the regular user charge and the monthly service fee are combined and billed on the same frequency as your water bill.

For those businesses that share a water meter with other users, the surcharge is applied to the total water consumption recorded by the shared meter. It may be possible to install a separate meter for the business subject to the surcharge. Any business owner interested in such a meter should contact the District office for details.

If a business owner believes his business is not being assessed the proper surcharge, the District will perform additional sampling of that user. The cost for the additional sampling shall be paid by that user. A manhole on the building sanitary service line is necessary for individual sampling. If a manhole is not presently available, the business owner may install a manhole for sampling purposes. The business owner must pay all costs associated with the installation of the sampling manhole.

**E) WHAT CAN YOU DO TO LOWER THE AMOUNT OF SURCHARGE?**

Since the two main components of your user bill are based on metered water consumption, you can reduce both charges by more efficient use of the water that goes into the sewer; and for water that doesn't go into the sewer, you may be able to install a separate, sewer exempt, water meter.

You can also decrease your surcharge by implementing measures to reduce wastewater strength, such as the following:

- 1) More efficient housekeeping practices to keep unnecessary wastes from being discharged into the sewer.
- 2) Thoroughly cleaning all grease traps on a regular basis.
- 3) Installing additional or larger capacity grease traps.
- 4) Disposing of garbage and grease by means other than disposal into the sewer.
- 5) Pre-cleaning of dishes before entering washing machines.

**F) WHERE CAN I OBTAIN MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE SURCHARGE?**

For additional information, you may contact the District's Administration Center. The Administration Center, located at 2710 Curtiss Street, Downers Grove, is open Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The telephone number is (630) 969-0664.