

DWSC Water Rates

Monthly Base Rate	Current Rate (includes 2,000gallons)	New Rate as of March 1st (0 gallons included)
Standard 5/8" x 3/4"	\$30.00	\$33.32
1"	\$75.00	\$83.30
1 1/2"	\$150.00	\$166.59
2"	\$240.00	\$266.55

Average Use for DeBerry Customers: 3,800 Gallons

Prior Water Rates	
Tier (gal.)	Price per 1,000 Gallons
0-2000	Free
2001-10,000	\$ 2.75
10,001-20000	\$ 3.00
20001-30000	\$ 3.50
300001-70000	\$ 4.50
700001-UP	\$ 7.75

New Rates for Water beginning March 1, 2025	
Tier (gal.)	Price per 1,000 Gallons
0-2000	\$ 5.00
2001-6000	\$ 6.00
6001-10000	\$ 7.00
10001-20000	\$ 8.00
20001-40000	\$ 9.00
40001-UP	\$ 10.00

Example: Prior Cost for 2,000 gallons = \$30.00

New Rate March 1st for 2,000 gallons = \$43.32 (\$33.32 base rate + \$5.00 per thousand gallons x2)

Dear Members of the DeBerry Water Supply Corporation (DWSC),

We are writing to inform you about an important update regarding water rates that was debated and approved in a Public Board Meeting on January 14, 2025. After careful consideration and analysis, the DWSC Board has approved a rate increase based on a comprehensive rate study conducted by the Texas Rural Water Association. We want to provide you with a clear understanding of why this change is necessary and how it will impact our community.

Why Are Rates Increasing?

The new rate structure aligns with the Public Utilities Commission's guidelines, which specify that:

- **Base rates** should cover fixed expenses (operator and admin costs, insurance, tank repair, postage, etc).
- **Per-gallon rates** should cover the cost of water usage (electricity to deliver water, repairs and maintenance, well repair, labs)
 - Not counting the fixed expenses, our current cost to get water to your home is over \$6.00 per thousand gallons. As you can see from the new rate chart, those that use a lower volume of water will still pay below cost.

The primary cause of this increase is the rising cost of repairs and maintenance. Over the past few years, DWSC has been operating at a loss, and at the same time, has not been keeping up with the long-term maintenance of the infrastructure. To fulfill our commitment to providing high-quality water, we must ensure our revenue supports ongoing operational needs and compliance with State regulations. For example, the cost of materials for leak repairs in December was nearly double the cost of labor. This trend highlights the growing financial demand of maintaining our system.

Supporting the Community

We understand the rate increases can pose challenges for some members of our community. To assist, we are:

- **Compiling a list of local resources** that may provide financial assistance to those in need. Some community members have also volunteered to take part in this outreach to strengthen that list.
- **Adopting new tariff provisions** that include leak adjustment policies and flexible payment options for senior citizens.

Transparency and Accountability

The budget underpinning this rate adjustment is included as an attachment to this notice for your review. The Board is committed to:

- **Annual budget reviews** to ensure fiscal responsibility.
- **Ongoing rate studies** to align rates with operational needs and community considerations.

We also want to emphasize that this decision was not made lightly. None of the Board members receive a salary or stand to benefit personally from this rate adjustment. Our sole focus is the sustainability and improvement of DWSC's services for the community.

The updated rates align DWSC more closely with other Texas Water Supply Corporations of similar size, as shown in the 2022-2024 Statewide Rate Studies. The average base fee for Texas WSCs ranges from \$35 to \$40. While our rates are not directly based on state averages, we reviewed three years of data to ensure our increase is reasonable. Historically, our rates have not kept pace with rising expenses, or the minimum required to maintain water quality standards. Addressing deferred maintenance and implementing necessary upgrades and improvements has resulted in higher costs as we work to catch up.

Looking Ahead

We are optimistic that as we strengthen our financial position and pursue larger grants, we may be able to stabilize rates in the future. Our first batch of larger grant proposals will be sent to the Texas Water Development Board on March 1st by Ardurra Engineering. We will be informed by September 2025 of their initial decisions. However, we must also recognize the continued cost escalation of material and parts, which necessitates this adjustment and is the reason we cannot wait until possible State funding becomes available.

This is the first DWSC Board of Directors to apply for State assistance, and we must acknowledge that our history does not put us in the best position for the first choice. We are doing all we can to turn that page, but there were many compliance items for which we had to secure special permissions or extensions—items that were not addressed in the past but are required to even apply for large grant assistance.

Thank you for your understanding and continued support as we work together to ensure the long-term reliability and quality of our water system. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us directly.

Sincerely,

DWSC Board of Directors

Sara Edwards, Matt Tillman, Tamatha Walters, Mary Robinson, Steve Werner

*** Opportunities to Voice Your Opinion to your Board of Directors ***

- Monthly Board meetings on 2nd Tuesday of each month @ 6pm at the DeBerry Fire Department; Agenda and Meeting Minutes are posted on the website [<https://deberry.myruralwater.com/>]
- Customer service email: deberrywsc@gmail.com
- Office telephone: (903) 766-3973; Speak with Debbie about your concerns and she can forward message to individual Board Members if requested
- Mailing address: P.O Box 278 DeBerry, TX 75639

Rate Summary Sheet

Systems Fixed Cost	\$	149,534.00
Systems Variable Cost	\$	106,810.00
Systems Total Cost	\$	256,344.00
Meter Equivalents		374
Average Water Sold		16,787,165
Monthly Minimum	\$	33.32
Uniform Cost Per Thousand	\$	6.36

Cost Per Tier

0-2000	\$	5.00
2001-6000	\$	6.00
6001-10000	\$	7.00
10001-20000	\$	8.00
20001-40000	\$	9.00
40001-UP	\$	10.00
	\$	-
	\$	-
	\$	-

