

Q. Why am I getting charged for stormwater when I'm not on city sewer (have septic) and or city water?

A. Please keep in mind that stormwater is rain; the stormwater fee has nothing to do with potable (drinking) water or wastewater, or whether you're on a sewer or have septic tanks. The stormwater fee is being charged for services provided that will help control and treat stormwater runoff, which is greater coming from developed properties.

Q. Will I get a discount or refund if it doesn't rain?

A. Maintenance and improvements to local stormwater systems happen all year round, rain or shine. The stormwater fee is not applicable to a singular rain event. To meet the government mandates, it's essential for us to dedicate resources that will help ensure that when it does rain, our streets and homes don't flood and our waterways are less polluted.

Q. Is there any way to earn a fee discount or reduction?

A. Residents may earn credits for practices and measures that reduce stormwater runoff. Our credit policy can be found on our website under Stormwater Management, www.wvsa.org.



For more
information,
please visit:
www.wvsa.org
www.epa.gov
www.dep.pa.gov

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For our Residents

Frequently Asked Questions
About your Stormwater Fee



***You 'otter know...
we all live downstream.***

Q. Why did the WVSA begin charging a stormwater fee?

A. The stormwater fee is being used to fund compliance with a government mandate that requires a five-year, 10% pollution reduction in our waterways, particularly the Susquehanna River, which flows into the Chesapeake Bay. Stormwater management isn't solely about flooding anymore. The environmental impacts of stormwater runoff are significant, and those impacts are compromising our natural waterways, including streams, creeks and rivers.

Q. Who is charged the stormwater fee?

A. The stormwater fee is being billed to all owners of property located in a municipality that is participating in the WVSA's Regional Stormwater Management Program. (RSMP) There are currently 32 member municipalities. The regional approach yields significant cost savings vs. a singular municipal approach, garnering efficiencies in the use of WVSA's trained staff, equipment, and knowledge of how to operate and manage a regional authority.

Q. What exactly will my fee pay for?

A. Your fee will help support Best Management Practices (BMPs) designed to reduce stormwater pollution, including: pollution reduction planning, BMP operations and maintenance, system mapping, street sweeping, installation of community rain gardens, and local streams restoration.

Q. How did you determine what I owe?

A. Your fee is based on the total amount of impervious surface on your property. This includes your rooftops, walkways, patios and driveways. An impervious area is a surface where water can't seep into the ground. Stormwater "runs off" these areas untreated, flowing into nearby streams, creeks and rivers.

Q. Why do you use impervious area to determine my stormwater fee?

A. Developed property generates more stormwater runoff with a greater amount of pollutants than land in its natural state. The amount of the stormwater fee charged to a property correlates directly to the impervious area on that property—ensuring that the fees are charged fairly and equitably.

Q. What if I don't pay the stormwater fee?

A. Your stormwater fee will appear as a separate line item on your WVSA sewer bill. Payment is due upon request to avoid disruption to your water service or a lien against your property.

Q. Why should I pay if there is no inlet/ditch/curb in front of my property and/or if I'm on a private road?

A. Properties on private roads—whether they are dirt roads or behind gates—are still subject to the stormwater fee. State statutes indicate that maintenance of private roads is the responsibility of the abutting property owners.

Q. Why should I pay for rain falling on my property?

A. Property owners are not being charged for rain falling on surface, but for runoff that is discharged into the city's stormwater system when it does rain. As rain falls on impervious surfaces, it collects pollutants such as sediments, fertilizers, grease and oil.

The amount of pollutants contained in stormwater can be correlated to the amount of impervious surface on your property. That stormwater—and all the pollutants it collects—eventually flows to streams, creeks and rivers.

Q. How harmful could stormwater runoff really be?

A. It's not so much the rain itself, but the pollutants it carries are harmful to our environment. Some common pollutants found in or carried by stormwater include: Sediments (dirt and silt), vegetation (leaves and yard clippings), fertilizers, litter, pesticides, pet waste, phosphates (from soap used in car or pet washing), oil and fuel.

Q. My property retains water and/or doesn't discharge to the city's system. Why should I pay?

A. Rain and runoff may be absorbed by bare ground during light rain events, but properties generally discharge runoff during heavier events. Charging the fee according to impervious surface areas helps ensure that everyone who's contributing to the city's stormwater system pays their fair share to support it.