

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT

SEWER RATES & INCREASES

The Veazie Sewer District has not raised its rates since 2001. We would like to avoid a rate increase in the immediate future, but to do that, we need your help in keeping costs down.

Sump Pumps

When a sump pump is connected to a sewer source, the pumped clean water ends up at the Veazie Sewer District treatment plant. This results in increased operating costs because the plant must pay to treat water that does not need to be treated.

One sump pump can add enough water to the treatment plant to equal the wastewater of 25 homes. Treating this water unnecessarily is costly and could result in higher rates for everyone—not just those using sump pumps. If necessary, the District will embark on an inspection program to detect sump pumps connected to the sewer system.

A sump pump should be directed onto the ground outside your home. Directing it at least 10 feet away from the foundation will help ensure that the water does not return.

“Flushable” Wipes

Wipes are popular for use with adults, babies, and general cleaning. Many of them are labeled “Flushable.” Unfortunately, there are no regulations for what qualifies a wipe as flushable. Typically, wipes will be labeled flushable if they are smaller than nonflushable wipes, even if they are made out of the same materials. More and more people are finding these wipes eventually clog up their own pipes, and the Veazie Sewer District is experiencing clogging of our pumps due to these wipes.

Only regular toilet paper should be flushed. Clogging from wipes and other nonflushable material is costly. If the District is forced to install grinders to grind up nonflushable materials before they enter the collections system, the cost will be tens of thousands of dollars.

Outside Water Usage

Pools: The Veazie Sewer District allows abatements (rebates) for filling swimming pools. To qualify, you must record your water meter reading before you begin filling your pool and again when you are done. These readings can be sent by e-mail, phone, or mail. The District also

may ask for the dimensions of the pool.

New Lawns: The Veazie Sewer District allows a one-time abatement for a new lawn. To receive an abatement, the District must be notified prior to seeding.

Meters for Outside Water Usage

For abatements (rebates) on all other outside water usage, such as watering gardens or washing vehicles, a separate water meter must be permanently installed inside on your hose bib. The cost of purchasing and installing the meter is the responsibility of the homeowner, and an application with the District must be completed. (Not all homes will recoup the cost of an outside meter. Please contact the District for more information.)

For people with existing outside meters, it is your responsibility to contact the District with your outside meter reading. Readings may be submitted by e-mail, phone, or mail. Outside meter readings must be received on or before:

November 15, for January 1 billing.

February 15, for April 1 billing.

May 15, for July 1 billing.

August 15, for October 1 billing.

Unusually High Bills

The sewer usage portion of your bill is based on water consumption using meter readings from the Orono-Veazie Water District. An increase in water consumption can affect your sewer bill. Increases can be caused by additional people staying in the home, summer lawn watering, or more frequent laundry and personal care. Another possible cause is a leak, possibly from a toilet or tap. For information on checking for leaks, please visit our website or contact us.

When leaked water comes to the sewer plant, such as from a toilet leak, the Veazie Sewer District has to treat that water. Therefore, the District cannot reduce the sewer bill for those leaks.

As always, the staff of the Veazie Sewer District encourages anyone who has questions or would like to tour the facility and see how the District is working to protect our environment to call us.

You also can visit our website at www.veaziesewerdistrict.com.

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