



Wastewater Averaging FAQ

1. **What is wastewater?** Wastewater, or raw sewage, is water that drains from toilets, sinks, showers, baths, dishwashers, and washing machines.
2. **Why does the City use average winter water usage as the basis for my wastewater bill?** Your water meter measures your monthly water use, but there is no meter on your wastewater line. Water usage during the winter months (no outside irrigation) provides a measure that is generally reflective of the amount of wastewater that goes directly into the wastewater system (pipelines) from your property for treatment.
3. **How is my wastewater bill calculated?** Your wastewater bill is calculated by measuring the average water usage during the months of December, January, February and March when most of the water goes directly into the wastewater system versus being used for outdoor watering. The highest month's usage during this four-month period is dropped for purposes of the calculation.
4. **Why is wastewater averaging done December through March?** Usually outdoor watering is absent or minimal during the late fall and winter months; therefore it is easier to estimate the actual amount of water used for indoor purposes that goes directly into the wastewater system.
5. **Can I choose different months to determine my wastewater bill?** No, the months used to determine your wastewater bill have been specified by Lodi Municipal Code Section 13.12.181.
6. **How can I lower my wastewater bill?** By conserving water during the calculation period (December through March) you can lower the amount you will be billed for wastewater each month beginning on July 1st.
7. **Why do I pay more for wastewater than I do for my water?** The cost of providing wastewater service and treatment is higher than the cost of providing like water services. After the water you use goes down the drain, or is flushed, it must be treated to very strict, State-controlled standards before it is returned to the environment.
8. **When does my new wastewater average go into effect?** Each July your new monthly wastewater average will reset and remain the same for one year.

For more information on ways to conserve water visit: <http://lodi.watersavingplants.com/>