

# DO YOU KNOW YOUR WATER BUDGET?

Since January 2007, the City of Boulder has had a water rate structure that use "water budgets." The water budget approach is a unique method of computing monthly water bills by giving each customer monthly water budgets that are tailored to reflect each customer's indoor and outdoor water needs. Water budgets aim to promote water conservation by making the water used within your water budget much cheaper than the water you are charged for if you go over your water budget.

Billing Block	2012 Rates (per 1,000 gallons)	% of budget
Block 1	\$2.25 (3/4 base rate)	0-60%
Block 2	\$3.00 (The base rate)	61-100%
Block 3	\$6.00 (2 X base rate)	101-150%
Block 4	\$9.00 (3 X base rate)	151-200%
Block 5	\$15.00 (5 X base rate)	Greater than 200%

## How much water do you use?

Your utility bill has a graph of the water used. These graphs quickly explain if an account is at, above or below budget. Sign up for My Boulder Utility Bill (MyBUB) and you can review your monthly water use online!

Want to see your use before you get the bill? Why not invest in a water



*city water monitor*

monitor? For a small fee the Utility Billing office can set you up with your own water monitor that allows you to read your meter whenever you want to. Mount it on the wall in a business or on your home refrigerator to help you track your water use and stay within budget.

## How much water can you save?

Indoor water waste use can increase up to 500 extra gallons a day when a toilet leaks. Even without a leak, older toilets (pre 1994) can waste five gallons per flush. Install a new EPA WaterSense® approved high efficiency toilet- problem solved. You'll save over 3 gallons with every flush and you'll be eligible for a rebate. Replace older inefficient appliances like washing machines and you may be eligible for multiple rebates from the city for both water and energy savings!

Is outdoor water waste your biggest worry? It should be. Outdoor water use is the largest source of water waste. Install an eligible efficient irrigation spray head, get a rebate and reduce water use by up to 30%. Not sure where to start? Get a water audit this irrigation season. Commercial and large multifamily customers can get a \$200 dollar audit rebate and single family customers can get a free Slow-the-Flow audit from the Center for Resource Conservation (CRC). While you're at it, order a "Garden-In-A Box" from the CRC and replace water intensive turf with xeriscape.

For more information on water budgets visit [www.boulderwater.net](http://www.boulderwater.net) and click on "water budgets." Call Utility Billing to inquire about a water monitor at 303-441-3260 or sign up for MyBUB by visiting [www.myboulderutilitybill@bouldercolorado.gov](http://www.myboulderutilitybill@bouldercolorado.gov). To learn more about saving water and energy at [www.bouldercolorado.gov/wattsinthewater](http://www.bouldercolorado.gov/wattsinthewater). For details on CRC programs contact 303-999-3820 or visit [www.conservationcenter.org](http://www.conservationcenter.org). For general water conservation rebate information and other ways to save water call 303-413-707 or visit:

[www.bouldersaveswater.net](http://www.bouldersaveswater.net)

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