

Time to Winterize – Protect Your Irrigation System & Landscape

Winter is nearly here, and freezing overnight temperatures are already the norm. If you haven't winterized yet, now is the time to protect your irrigation system and landscape before the hard freeze sets in.

- ✓ Blow out your irrigation system. Clearing water from the lines helps prevent costly freeze damage to sprinkler heads, pipes, and backflow devices.
- ✓ Disconnect and drain hoses. Remove hoses, splitters, and timers from all outdoor faucets so water can't freeze and crack the spigot or the pipe behind it.
- ✓ Consider applying mulch on your planting beds. A layer of mulch insulates plant roots and helps your landscape bounce back in the spring.
- ✓ Consider wrapping young and thin-barked trees. Tree wrap protects against sunscald and ice damage through the winter.

A few minutes of prep now can save you expensive repairs come spring. Thank you for helping us keep our community's water system running smoothly!

Winter System Maintenance & Upgrades

As the summer months come to an end, Cottonwood Water has already been working towards getting its water and wastewater system fine-tune again and ready for next summer. Key projects that you may see as you stroll around the neighborhood throughout the winter will include:

- ✓ Watermain's valve repairs
- ✓ Fire hydrant exercising
- ✓ Commercial & Industrial back-flow prevention testings
- ✓ Deep and shallow wells inspections, including cleaning to remove iron and manganese sediment buildup
- ✓ Sanitary sewer mains video inspection, including cleaning by water jetting, followed by point-of-repairs whenever necessary
- ✓ Water storage tank comprehensive inspection, including vacuum-cleaning iron and manganese sedimentation, if any.
- ✓ Scheduled winter maintenance at the Joint Water Purification Plant (JWPP")
- ✓ Planned upgrades to the non-potable watermain system,
- ✓ And much more!

2026 Drought Update

The past water year (November 1, 2025 – October 31, 2026) was officially the worst drought on record across all of Colorado's water basins. Extreme dry conditions in the Cherry Creek basin directly affected our water supply from the Cherry Creek alluvium, which is treated at the JWPP, and we saw a significant reduction in pumping rates as a result.

Since we implemented Stage 2 conservation measures in June, you have helped reduce peak summer water demand by roughly 6%, and we are grateful. Our commercial irrigation customers cut outdoor watering by nearly 14%, showing how quickly outdoor savings add up. If we face similar conditions again, there's room for all of us to find additional water savings outdoors. Thank you again!

Throughout this winter, the District will continue to monitor how our water supplies recover, and we will conduct a comprehensive review of our Conservation Stages in early 2027. Stay tuned.

Proposed Water Rates for 2027

Cottonwood Water and Sanitation District (the "District") prepares a draft budget for the coming year each fall. This year's draft is based on the District's 2026 financial results, including our water and wastewater needs and projected changes in costs for 2027.

After input from the Board and a public hearing, the proposed budget will be considered for approval at the Board meeting on November 19 at 6:30 p.m., held at 8051 S. Jordan Rd, Centennial, CO. The Board will also conduct its annual review of rates at that meeting. The Board will be considering rate increases to water and wastewater services as shown in Tables 1 and 2. No rate changes will be made until a public hearing has been held.

Tables 1 & 2 show the existing 2026 rates vs the proposed 2027 rates.

Table 1

	WATER USE FEES			WASTEWATER USE FEES		
Tier:	**2026** Water Service Fee Per 1,000 Gallons	**2027 Water Service Fee Per 1,000 Gallons**	**Percentage of Yr to Yr Increase**	**2026** Sewer Service Fee Per 1,000 Gallons	**2027 Sewer Service Fee Per 1,000 Gallons**	**Percentage of Year to Year Increase**
Conserving: Use up to 100% of Allocation	$5.05	**$5.28**	**4.50%**	$9.66	**$9.95**	**3.00%**
Excessive: Use exceeds the Conserving tier, up to 150%	$10.11	**$10.56**				
Abusive: Use exceeds the Excessive tier, up to 200%	$15.16	**$15.84**				

Table 2

	WATER & WASTEWATER BASE FEES					
	2026		2027		Percentage of Yr toYr Increase	
	Water	Sewer	**Water**	**Sewer**	**Water**	**Sewer**
Base Fee/sfe	$23.74	$16.07	**$24.81**	**$16.47**	**4.50%**	**2.50%**

2027 Bill Impacts

Example: WINTER monthly bill Increase, for single-family residential customers who use **5,000**[A] gallons of potable water and 4,000 gallons for wastewater treatment as calculated per the home's Winter Average Use (WAU):

	2026	2027	**Bill Increases by:**
Water & Sewer Bill[B]	$104.18	$107.98	**$3.80**

Example: Summer monthly bill Increase, for single-family residential customers who use **12,000**[A] gallons of potable water and 4,000 gallons for wastewater treatment as calculated per the home's Winter Average Use (WAU):

	2026	2027	**Bill Increases by:**
Water & Sewer Bill[B]	$139.05	$144.44	**$5.39**

Next Meetings of the Board:
- November 19, 2026, beginning at 6:30 pm at 8051 S. Jordan Rd, Centennial, CO. 80112.

- December 17, 2026, beginning at 6:30 pm at 8334 Sandreed Cir, Parker, CO 80134.

The Public is welcome to attend!

Notes:
A) Potable water use within the "Conserving Rate" allocation
B) If you use less water than the monthly allocation, the monthly impact will be lower!