

Topsham Sewer District
SEWER ENTRANCE FEE POLICY

Purpose and Intent

The Sewer Entrance Fee shall be charged for all new connections. The purpose of the Topsham Sewer District's Sewer Entrance Fee Policy is to assist in providing dependable sewer service to new and existing customers. The funds collected will be used to make capital improvements to existing sewer collection, and pumping facilities. The funds will also be used to purchase future additional capacity to Brunswick Sewer District treatment facilities pursuant to the Treatment agreement entered between the Brunswick Sewer District and Topsham Sewer District dated January 1, 2024 and any future treatment agreements. The Entrance Fee also covers the cost to establish a new user into the system and inspection of the sewer service connection installation.

Sewer Entrance Fee Determination

The Sewer Entrance Fee is to be proportional to the design flow from a new user, or the design flow related to the expansion of an existing user. A base flow of 175 gallons per day (gpd) shall be used to define an Equivalent Dwelling Unit (EDU). The design flow of non-residential units is to be established from the Maine Subsurface Wastewater Disposal Rules (dated September 23, 2023, or latest revision), Table 4C - Design Flows for Other Facilities. A single-family home, a condominium unit, and a mobile home shall all be equal to one EDU. The unit charge for the Sewer Entrance Fee shall be \$2,500.00 per EDU. The Sewer Entrance Fee shall be determined by multiplying the unit charge of \$2,500.00 per EDU. The Sewer Entrance Fee shall be determined by multiplying the unit charge of \$2,500.00 per EDU by the number of EDUs calculated for that user, based on design flow as defined above. Two examples of calculating the Sewer Entrance Fee are provided below:

1. A single-family home:

- Number of EDUs = 1
- Unit Charge = \$2,500.00/EDU

$$\text{Sewer Entrance Fee} = 1 \text{ EDU} \times \$2,500.00/\text{EDU} = \$2,500.00$$

2. A 50-seat restaurant serving 3 meals per day, with 15 employees present in a 24-hour period:

- Design Flow per Table 501.2 of the Maine Subsurface Wastewater Disposal Rules
(50 seats x 30 gpd/seat) + (15 employees x 15 gpd/employee) = 1725 gpd

- Number of EDUs = 1725 gpd/175 gpd per EDU = 9.86 EDUs

- Unit Charge = \$2,500.00/EDU

$$\text{Sewer Entrance Fee} = 9.86 \text{ EDUs} \times \$2,500.00/\text{EDU} = \$24,650.00$$

Sewer Entrance Requirements

A property owner (herein after, “the Owner”) seeking to connect to the Topsham Sewer District (herein after, “the District”) collection system shall complete and provide the District office with a sewer entrance application. The Owner must also pay a sewer entrance fee as determined using the formula established in the Topsham Sewer District Sewer Entrance Fee Policy before hook-up to the sewer collection system may begin. The completed sewer application and entrance fee paid shall be valid for 2 years. If after 2 years the Owner has not connected to the sewer, the District may request a new application and/or additional entrance fee should the entrance fees at that time be greater than those paid at the time of previous applications.

The sewer entrance fee shall apply to all buildings with disposal or discharge of residential wastewater, commercial wastewater, or industrial wastewater, to the District sewer collection system.

Once the District has received the entrance application and applicable fee (or an appropriate payment arrangement for the fee), the Owner may connect to the sewer collection system. The District will advise the Owner as to where and how the service lateral should connect to the sewer collection system. The Owner is responsible for choosing a contractor and for all costs associated with the construction of the sewer lateral and connection to the sewer collection system. At its discretion, the District shall provide an inspector to assure proper installation and the lateral and connection to the sewer collection system.

For Owners on public water systems, all new connections, whether made to a public sewer or privately-owned sewer that connects to the District sewer collection system, shall incorporate a potable water meter which shall be the basis of determining the actual quantity of water supplied to the property, and the resulting sewer user charge.

Condominium units, townhouses, and individual mobile home units will pay a separate sewer entrance fee per unit. If on public water system, each unit will maintain a potable water meter for the recording of consumption for billing purposes. Each unit will own and maintain a separate service lateral to the main sewer line.

A connection by an existing mobile home park on the public water system shall maintain either individual water meters per mobile home unit or a master water flow meter as a primary measuring devise to record water usage for billing purposes.

For all Owners not on the public water system: Billing shall be based on Article VIII, Section 2 of the Topsham Sewer District Regulation of Sewer Use, November 12, 2025, or latest version.