



Boston Water and Sewer Commission News



Jan/Feb 2026



Celebrating 2025!

Another Year of Great Tasting Water

Boston's tap water has been recognized as the best-tasting in New England and is set to compete in the national "Best of the Best" contest in June 2026. This recognition is a testament to the quality of water provided by the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA) and distributed by the Boston Water and Sewer Commission (BWSC).

The water's source, the Quabbin and Wachusett Reservoirs, is known for its pristine conditions and is surrounded by protective natural buffer zones. The award is a tribute to the hard-working staff of BWSC, who ensure that everyone has access to drinking water that is not only clean and safe but also great tasting. In addition to supplying New England's best tap water and all that it entails, we invite you to learn about even more of the accomplishments and wins for 2025.

Getting the Lead Out is Always a Big Win! In 2025 alone nearly 400 privately owned lead service pipes have been replaced free of charge to property owners who participated in our No Cost Private Lead Replacement Program. This is part of an ongoing effort to remove private water pipes containing lead in the city of Boston. If you're interested in joining the thousands of residents who have taken advantage of this great opportunity, give the Lead Hotline a call at: 617-989-7888.



Say No to FOG! As shoppers prepared for the festive holiday season over 700 grease can lids were distributed to patrons at the Roslindale Farmers Market and Shaw's Grocery Stores in East Boston and Hyde Park. This is part of our outreach to keep Boston residents informed of the proper way to discard leftover fats, oils, and grease (FOG). Grease can lid giveaways are a fun way to remind everyone to keep FOG out of pipes!

Spreading Cheer Every Year At BWSC the holiday tradition includes giving back to the community and this year was no different. BWSC employees shared in the joy of the season with donations to Toys for Tots and Boston Public Schools Food Bank.



Water Sewer & Stormwater Rates for 2026

Consumption (Cu. Ft./Day)	Water		Sewer		Stormwater
	Per 1,000 Cubic Feet	Per 1,000 Gallons	Per 1,000 Cubic Feet	Per 1,000 Gallons	
First 19	\$70.19	\$9.384	\$66.68	\$8.914	Properties with six units or less will be charged a flat rate of \$9.06 per month for stormwater management. Implemented January 1, 2026 and effective through December 31, 2026
Next 20	\$74.96	\$10.022	\$77.87	\$10.410	
Next 50	\$81.75	\$10.930	\$96.24	\$12.866	
Next 260	\$87.14	\$11.649	\$107.69	\$14.397	
Next 950	\$91.71	\$12.261	\$117.20	\$15.668	
Over 1299	\$95.48	\$12.764	\$126.03	\$16.849	

The above chart reflects a 1.5% overall increase in water, sewer, and stormwater charges for 2026. For a typical household family of four, the water, sewer, and stormwater bill will increase by an estimated \$1.92 per month.

Financial Assistance Programs

Financial Hardship

We know that customers at times may struggle with unexpected medical or financial difficulties. Remember to connect with our customer service representatives who are at the ready to help. Flexible payment arrangements are available as appropriate.

The No Cost Private Lead Replacement Incentive Program

BWSC offers eligible homeowners lead service pipe replacement free of cost. Call the Lead Hotline to set up an appointment to find out if your pipe is made of lead at 617-989-7888.

Discount for the Elderly and Fully Disabled

A discount is available for homeowners 65 years or older, or fully disabled. Qualifying customers receive a 30% discount on your water, sewer, and stormwater bill.

Sewer Lateral Financial Assistance Program

If you have a blocked, collapsed or leaking waste pipe you may be eligible to participate in the sewer lateral program and be reimbursed up to \$8,000.00.

Sewer Abatement

Sewer abatements allow the installation of a BWSC approved separate meter that will calculate water usage not entering BWSC's sewer system.

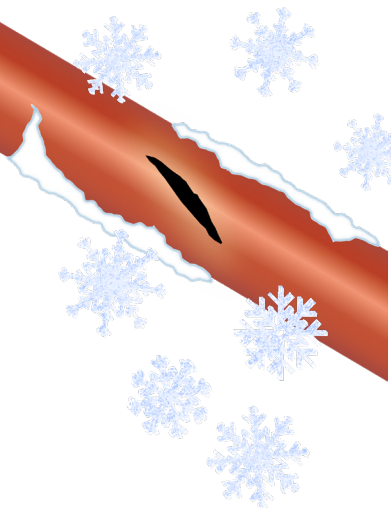
Leak Up To Owner Program

When a service pipe leaks, it is essential that it be fixed promptly. This program offers residential property owners the ability to contract with BWSC to repair a water service pipe leak for a reasonable cost. The cost of the repair can be paid interest free for up to 24 months on your water bill.

Stormwater Credits and Grants

A 30% credit is available for customers that meet standards for stormwater retention and infiltration systems on their property. Also, a 5% credit is available for educational programs that promote stormwater management practices. For more info contact the Stormwater Team at 617-989-7899.

Grants of up to \$8,000.00 are available for property owners through the Green Stormwater Infrastructure Assistance Grant Program.



Tips to Prevent Frozen Pipes this winter:

- Know where the water shutoff valve is in your home and how to turn it off.
- Keep cabinet doors leading to water pipes open during the winter, this will allow warmer air to circulate preventing frozen pipes.
- Seal openings in your home to prevent cold air from leaking through.
- Allow a steady trickle of water to flow from faucets during cold snaps, this may help pipes from freezing.
- Insulate pipes in unheated spaces such as garages, basements, and crawl spaces.
- Water meters may freeze during the winter if not protected from the cold. Be sure basement doors and windows are closed.

