

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What determines the future expansion of sewers in the town?

Expansion of sewer services within the community is determined by the Coventry Wastewater Facilities Plan updated 2016. The Plan, based on engineering studies, is a document approved by the R.I. Department of Environmental Management and it identifies those areas which are in most need of sewers based on physical characteristics and OWTS limitations (i.e. high groundwater, bedrocks, OWTS failure rates, OWTS soil suitability, lot sizes, proximity to surface water/drinking water supplies, etc.)

What is a sewer assessment?

A sewer assessment is a levy on the property owner which spreads the cost of construction of the sewers and sewer works amongst the properties where the construction is taking place.

Why have I received a sewer assessment bill?

A sewer assessment bill is issued to all properties with access to sewers once a sewer line construction is complete and approved by the Town Council.

What will my sewer assessment be?

The assessments are as follows:

For example, using a fictional residential rate of \$60.98/GPD (Gallons per Day) and a fictional non-residential rate of \$80.00/GPD (Gallons per Day):

Residential:

Each residential assessment will be with a minimum 2-bedroom assessment per property.

A vacant land shall be assessed the minimum 2-bedroom assessment.

A 3 bedroom residential dwelling using 115 GPD/bedroom will translate to:

$$3 \times 115 \text{ GPD} \times \underline{\$60.98/\text{GPD}} = \$21,038.10$$

Non-Residential:

A non-residential facility using 6,000 GPD will translate to:

$$6,000 \text{ GPD} \times \underline{\$80/\text{GPD}} = \$480,000.00$$

A non-residential facility using 7,000 GPD will translate to:

$$6,000 \text{ GPD} \times \$80/\text{GPD} + (1,000 \text{ GPD} \times 0.70 \times \$80/\text{GPD}) = \$536,000.000$$

Why was I charged a Betterment Assessment?

A Betterment Assessment is charged when there is a change in use of the property or an increase in daily flow (GPD) after an initial assessment has been calculated and charged.

For example:

Residential:

$$3 \text{ (BR)} \times 115 \text{ GPD} / \times 0.25 \text{ residential rate/GPD} = \$57.50$$

Minimum Assessment:

$$200 \text{ GPD} \times 0.25 \text{ Non-Residential Rate/GPD} = \$50.00$$

Non-Residential with design flows between 0-6000 GPD:

$$6000 \text{ GPD} \times .25 \text{ Non-Residential Rate/GPD} = \$1,500.00$$

All Other Non-Residential with design flows greater 6000 GPD:
6000 GPD x .25 Non-Residential Rate/GPD + (each gallon over 6000 GPD x 0.175 x Non-Residential Rate/GPD) =

[For additional information, please visit www.coventryri.org and click on Tax Collector Department.]

Must I pay the assessment up front?

NO. The assessment may be paid over a twenty (20) year period. If you elect to make periodic payments, interest at 6% of the unpaid balance will be applied. Property owners may elect to get their own financing and pay the assessment in full with no penalty for early payoff.

Do I have the right to appeal my assessment?

YES. You have a right to appeal to a three (3) member Sewer Board of Review. Such an appeal must be filed within sixty (60) days of the assessment. An appeal form can be located on the sewer website: <https://www.coventryri.org/sewer-authority>

Will I be charged any other fees?

YES. There will be an annual usage fee based on 80% of the properties water consumption. The purpose of the fee is to cover operation and maintenance of the sewer works.

If my present septic system fails, can I have it repaired or replaced?

NO. R.I. Department of Environmental Management Regulations require you to connect to the sewer line if it is on a street fronting or going by your property.

Do all cesspools in R.I. need to be replaced and what do I comply with?

Please visit RIDEM website:

www.dem.ri.gov/programs/water/owts/regulations-reports/cess-phaseout.php.

If I sell my property, must I pay the assessment in full?

Normally, no. Most Purchase & Sales Agreements allow the buyer to assume the assessment. This is a matter between you and the buyer.

Is there application to tie-in?

YES. You can get the application on line www.coventryri.org/sewer-authority. For any questions, please contact Stephani In at 822-9186.

What is the cost to connect to sewer?

For residential tie-in application: \$100 and \$200 for inspection. It is your responsibility to connect from the Town provided lateral to your house. This cost is between you and your contractor. Each property owner pays for a contractor to connect from their house to the property line. You can get the application on town website.

Is there a contractor list?

NO. The Drain Layers that operate within the State of Rhode Island must be licensed by the Contractors' Registration and Licensing Board. The contractor must be a Master Plumber or an Underground Utility Contractor. Please visit Contractors' Registration and Licensing Board at www.crb.state.ri.us.

Anyone who uses a lot of outside water should consider installing a deduct meter.

You will need to pull an electrical permit at the Building Department and if you have any other questions call (401) 822-9156. The meter should be read in cubic feet.

Is there funding program for people who need help?

The Town offers funding for qualified Owner Occupied properties.

- Grants are available for low/mod income households.
- We also offer 2% loans for people above the low/mod household income limits.
- Programs have different criteria
- Both require sealed bidding.

For further guidelines and process, please contact Gail Hardink, Community Development at 822-6246, office located at:

Town Hall Annex (across from Town Hall)
1675 Flat River Road
Coventry, RI 02816

I recently, installed a new septic system three (3) years ago, why do I need to connect to the Town sewers?

The Town requires all properties abutting Town sewers to connect within one (1) year of "receipt of official notice from the Town." [See Ord. §191-2(D)]. Property owners have the right to request a waiver to the mandatory hook-up requirement. The Town's Sewer Clerk has a Waiver Form which can be completed by the property owner. This form is also available on the Town's Sewer website: www.coventryri.org/sewer-authority