



23828 30th Avenue South, Kent, Washington
(206) 824-0375

Winter 2024-2025

The WaterLine Newsletter

Water-Related News and Information from Highline Water District

In This Issue:

- ✓ No Lead Service Lines Found!
- ✓ New District Policy for ADUs
- ✓ New Water Rates for 2025
- ✓ Low Income Senior and Disabled Citizen Discounts Available
- ✓ Update Your Contact Information

New District Policy for Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs)

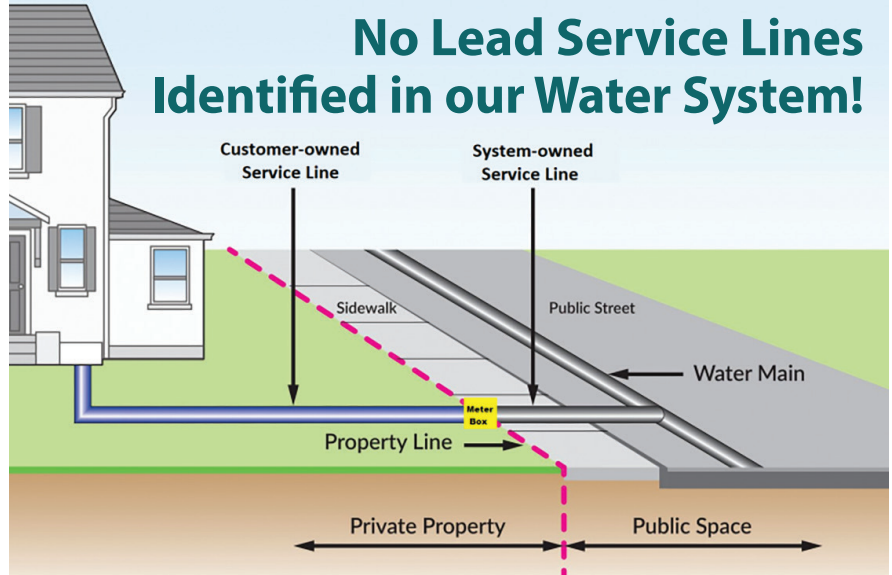


Recent Washington State legislation HB 1337 aims to increase affordable housing options by reducing restrictions on ADUs. The District has adopted a new policy to address water service requirements for these units. ADUs are self-contained residential units built on the same lot as a single-family home.

Properties with ADUs must at least have a 3/4-inch water meter, or a 1-inch meter if a residential fire sprinkler system is installed. A single water meter can serve the main home and up to two ADUs if it is adequately sized for the water usage. If the existing meter isn't sufficient, it must be upsized or additional meter(s) installed. Properties with more than two ADUs, or where the main home and ADUs are converted into independent ownership from the main unit (e.g. condominiums), a separate meter for each structure is required. Connection charges will apply for upsizing or installing a new meter, unless exceptions are available under the District's ERU Reduction Policy for residential fire sprinkler systems.

This policy aligns with Washington State's efforts to reduce housing barriers and expand affordable living options. For more information, visit our website at www.highlinewater.org.

No Lead Service Lines Identified in our Water System!



In October, Highline Water District submitted the findings from our first lead service line inventory to the Washington state Department of Health (DOH).

This inventory satisfies the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Lead and Copper Rule Revisions (LCRR), which require water systems like ours to submit an inventory of Lead Service Lines (LSLs) to the DOH by October 2024.

To create the inventory we collected building data, reviewed detailed installation records, established a statistical investigation, and physically inspected select service lines. These efforts ensured, with over 95% certainty, that our system is free of lead pipes.

However maintaining accurate service line information is an ongoing effort. If you know the material of your service line—the pipe between your water meter and your house—please let us know by completing a brief survey on our interactive map, found at: <https://lead-service-line-inventory-highlinewater.hub.arcgis.com/>

Your participation will help us maintain accurate service line records. You can also find this link directly from our website. Thank you for working with us to provide safe, high-quality water!



Lead Pipes:

- Scraped area is shiny and silver
- Magnet will not stick to pipe
- Tapping a coin on the pipe makes a dull noise

Galvanized Pipes:

- Scraped area remains dull grey
- Magnet *does* stick to pipe
- Tapping a coin on the pipe makes a metallic ringing noise

Copper Pipes:

- Scraped area is the color of a penny
- Magnet will not stick to pipe
- Tapping a coin on the pipe makes a metallic ringing noise

New Water Rates for 2025

Effective January 1, 2025, water rates will increase by 1%.

The average single-family residential customer who uses 600 cubic feet (6 CCF) of water per winter month and 800 cubic feet (8 CCF) per summer month will see their water bill increase by about \$0.46 per month.

2025 Water Commodity Rates

Single Family, Multi-Family, Fire & Commercial	Oct–May Winter	June—September 0 - 5 CCF	6+ CCF	Irrigation Water
	\$4.27	\$4.27	\$5.05	\$5.05

2025 Meter Base Rates

Meter Size	Available Gallons per Minute	Single Family Residence	Low Income Senior or Disabled	Commercial or Multi-Family	Standby Fire	Irrigation
5/8" or 3/4"	20/25	\$17.32	\$8.67	\$26.35	–	\$26.35
1"	50	\$30.83	\$15.41	\$53.26	–	\$53.26
1.5"	100	\$52.32	–	\$97.09	\$11.17	\$97.09
2"	160	\$80.30	–	\$151.96	\$14.81	\$151.96
2.5"	300	–	–	–	\$21.74	–
3"	450	–	–	\$316.87	\$41.47	–
4"	600	–	–	\$480.40	\$51.39	–
6"	1,350	–	–	\$929.73	\$74.45	–
8"	1,600	–	–	\$1,467.46	\$100.80	–
10"	–	–	–	–	\$130.38	–

Discounts Available for Low Income Seniors or Disabled Persons

Senior low income/disabled property owners who own and reside in the same home and are responsible for the water bill may be eligible for a discount on their water bill.

The reduction is available for customers with a residential water meter 1-inch or smaller in size. Homeowners must be receiving the King County property tax exemption to be eligible for the water bill discount.

<https://senior-exemption.kingcounty.gov/intro>

If you are not receiving the property tax exemption, contact The King County tax assessor's office for eligibility at 206-296-3920, or at:

<https://kingcounty.gov/en/dept/assessor/buildings-and-property/property-taxes/tax-relief/limited-income-deferral>

Discount Eligibility for Tenants:

Senior low income/disabled tenants that are being billed directly from the District may be eligible for the discount. The reduction is available for residential water meters of 1" or smaller in size. You must be 62 years of age or older or permanently disabled, with a combined household income of less than \$84,000 (2023 Tax Year) per year.

How to Request the Discount:

If you meet the above eligibility requirements, please contact our office to apply for the discount. We can be reached at 206-824-0375. Approved applicants will receive a 50% reduction in the base rate portion of your water bill. The discount program saves approximately 360 participants about \$38,000 annually off their water bill.



Stay Informed During Water-Related Events

Ensuring your safety is our highest priority. In order to communicate with you promptly about any water-related emergencies, we request customers update their contact information. Please contact us to ensure we have your most up-to-date information:

206-824-0375
customerservice@highlinewater.org

The WaterLine Newsletter is brought to you by Highline Water District and its Board of Commissioners:

Polly Daigle, Todd Fultz, Daniel Johnson, Vince Koester, and Kathleen Quong-Vermeire.

Contact us Monday through Friday from 7:00 am through 4:00 pm at (206) 824-0375 or customerservice@highlinewater.org

Visit us at 23828 30th Avenue South, Kent, Washington 98032 • www.highlinewater.org