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*May 2025 Update*

**Kishwaukee Water Reclamation District  
Sewer Charge Refund Program**  
(For water usage that does not enter sanitary sewers)

The purpose of this program is to offer Kishwaukee Water Reclamation District users an opportunity to receive a refund of sewer charges for city water used that does not enter sanitary sewers. In general, this would include outside water usage for lawn and garden watering, swimming pools, and ponds, etc.

The refund program will require the installation of an additional water meter (hereinafter referred to as “sewer charge refund meter” or simply “refund meter”) to segregate your inside and outside water usage. The refund meter needs to be installed after the city water meter and its output would be used for outdoor purposes (lawns, etc.). Thus, the refund meter measures the amount of water used outside and will provide the District with the required information to issue a refund. Refund meters are read once each year usually in October or November after the “watering season”. **A \$25.00/year processing fee is associated with this program.**

**The following are requirements for a refund meter installation:**

- 1) Obtain a plumbing permit from the City of DeKalb. You can contact the City of DeKalb Permit Department at 815-748-2070 for information regarding this.
- 2) You can purchase and install the meter and related piping yourself (provided you own and live in the building) or hire a plumber (registered with the City of DeKalb) to do the work. The refund meter must be a specific type (see below).
- 3) After the installation is complete:
  - a) Contact the **City of DeKalb (815-748-2070)** so the work can be inspected.
  - b) Contact the **Kishwaukee Water Reclamation District (815-758-3513)** so the beginning (initial) refund meter reading can be taken and the location of the remote reader can be documented. **Please call us yourself.**

**Estimated installation costs:**

A simple installation by a plumber would include the costs of the permit, a 5/8” meter at about \$150 and 2 hours of work. Obviously everyone’s situation is unique. Costs will vary depending on the ease of and time required for the installation (a finished vs unfinished basement, for example), the number of outside faucets you wish to connect to the refund meter, size of meter, etc.

**Refund water meter specifications:**

The meter must be a Neptune T-10 meter (calibrated in cubic feet) with ProRead remote reading. The most common size is 5/8" x 3/4", but larger sizes are available. Within our area, these meters are available at:

**Ferguson Waterworks, 1720 East State Street, DeKalb (815-756-2800).**

**Useful information:**

The following information may be useful in determining if it is worth your effort to participate in the refund program:

**Sewer and water charges are billed by the unit. 1 unit = 100 cubic feet = 748 gallons. The sewer charge for 1 unit of water is currently \$2.85.**

Some lawn "experts" suggest that established lawns need one inch of water (rain, sprinkler or combination) per week in the summer. One square foot, one inch deep = 0.623 gallons. A 10,000 sq. ft. lawn watered 1 inch deep = 6,230 gallons.  $6,230/748 = 8.33$  units.  $8.33 \text{ units} \times \$2.85 = \$25.17$  per watering event (**sewer charge**).

An above ground, circular swimming pool, 20 feet in diameter with a 4 foot water depth holds 9,400 gallons or 12.56 units.  $12.56 \text{ units} \times \$2.85 = \$35.80$  in **sewer charges** to fill. Evaporation and filter backwash would require additional makeup water.

At the current \$2.85/unit, you would need to use 9 units (about 6,732 gallons) to cover the annual \$25.00 processing fee.

**BASIC DIAGRAM INDICATING WATER USAGE**

Sanitary sewer charges for water used outside (does not enter sanitary sewers) are refundable if a "refund meter" is installed.

