

Welcome to **Utilities Inc. of Louisiana**



Aaron Accardo President, Utilities Inc. of Louisiana

66 On behalf of the entire Utilities Inc. of Louisiana team, we would like to welcome you as a new customer.

We are committed to providing safe, reliable drinking water and effectively treating wastewater to return it to the environment. Our customers are the most important part of our business, and we work tirelessly to ensure your satisfaction.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide service.



This welcome packet contains information to help you manage your utility services.

Account



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Contact Us

- 877-875-3711 Monday - Friday 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- www.uilwater.com
- account.mywater.us

NEW SERVICE CHECKLIST

Set Up Service and Account

Visit account.mywater.us and click "Start Service" to set up water/wastewater service.

Set Up Your Online Portal Account

Visit account.mywater.us and next to "Need a profile?" click on Sign up. You will need your account number.

Sign Up for Paperless Billing and Service Alerts

Make your account more efficient! Within the portal under the "Billing & Usage" menu options, click on "Paperless Billing with Email Notification." Then to receive email or text alerts about service events, payment reminders, leaks, and high usage, under the menu option "Update My Info" click on "Manage Notifications." Select how you would like to receive notifications.

Check for Potential High Usage

When you move into a new home, you may be unaware of settings for your irrigation or pool. For example, if you have new grass and plants, your sprinkler settings may run more often than you would like and can drive up your water usage.

Check for Leaks

Walk through your home and check toilets and faucets for leaks. Then, walk around the perimeter of your home to check for any leaks. It's important to repair leaks before they spike up your usage. If you end up having a leak, give us a call to check your usage and provide any assistance.

Visit the H2ome section of our website for more conservation tips.



Customer Service & Billing

Ways to Pay: Online

To manage your utility bills and payments, we recommend using our **My Account** online self-service customer portal. With My Account, you can easily manage most billing and other requests yourself.

From the self-service online portal you can:

- View your bill and usage
- Pay with debit card, bank account or credit card
- Set up auto pay
- See previous payment amounts and date paid
- See your total amount due and due date

You'll also be able to:

- Choose paperless billing
- Start / Stop and Transfer utility services
- Set up and modify notification preferences
- Contact Customer Service



Visit **account.mywater.us** to register and log in. Have your 10-digit Account Number (from your bill), service zip code, and email address available when registering.

Please note, we are not affiliated with any third-party online bill payment services, such as Doxo or Mint. These services usually charge additional fees, and do not guarantee payments will reach us on time. This may result in late fees or disconnection of services.



Sign up for Paperless Billing

If you're already viewing your bill online, sign up for paperless billing to stop receiving a bill in the mail.

Ways to Pay: Phone

Call **877-875-3711** to contact Customer Service to make a payment.

Over the phone you can:

- Check your account balance
- Get confirmation of your last payment made
- Pay your bill anytime, anywhere using credit or debit cards with a VISA or MasterCard logo.
- Set up recurring payments on your credit/debit card

Ways to Pay: Mail

Please attach the lower, detachable portion of your bill with mailed payments. Use the payee details in the Payment Remittance section to complete your check or money order, and write your 10-digit Account Number on the front. Do not send cash by mail.

Mail payments to:

PO Box 361230 Hoover, AL 35236-1230



Be Aware and Protect Yourself from Utility Scams

Utility scams are on the rise. Please know that our employees wear branded items, and our trucks are marked with our logo. Any service our employees conduct will be completed outside the home, for example at the meter or an outside tap. If we need to enter a customer's home, we require an appointment to allow entry and won't come to the property demanding access inside.



About Your Service

There is some crucial information we want you to know to better understand how water service works.

Locate Your Water Service Line



As a water customer in the United States, you are responsible for the service lines and plumbing starting from the meter to inside your home. We recommend that you stay alert of water leaks to identify the source location to have it repaired immediately.

Water meters and curb stop valves can help you locate where water service lines enter your home. If present, they're typically located at the front of the property near the street or sidewalk, in ground level boxes marked "water" or "meter".

Our responsibility is from the meter to the service lines and all the way to proper management of the water source.

It's important we all do our part in maintaining service lines to ensure consistent service and reduce the amount of clean water leaked.

How to Read Your Water Meter

Your water meter is a simple and reliable instrument that measures the volume of water (in gallons) that has passed from the public watermain to your home or business.

The location and appearance of residential water meters varies, but they're all similar in their function.

Analog Meters



Your meter allows us to accurately charge individual users for their water use. Meters measure all water flow, so they can be used to detect even the smallest leaks in your plumbing – to help you conserve water and save money.

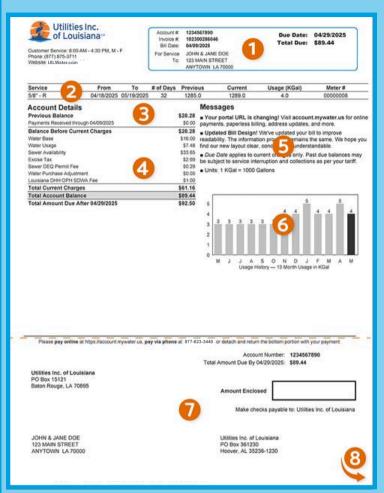
Digital Meters



Digital meters transmit meter data wirelessly, so utility personnel don't need to come to your property. Even though their appearance is different, digital meters can be read in the same way as analog meters.



Understanding Your Bill



- 1. Account Information: Your 10-digit Account # should be referenced on all correspondence and payments. You'll also need it to sign up for a My Account profile, or when you call Customer Service. The Bill Date is when the invoice was generated. Please pay special attention to the Due Date and Total Due so that your payment is not late.
- 2. Usage Calculation: This area details the meter readings used to calculate your usage for the period indicated. Service refers to your meter size. Your Usage (KGal) is calculated by subtracting Previous from Current readings. Usage (KGal) represents a unit of 1,000 gallons, as we do not charge for fractions of 1,000 gallons. The Meter # is the ID number of your meter.
- **3. Previous Bill Summary:** Information about your previous balance, payments, and any remaining balance owed.
- **4. Current Charges:** The itemized charges that make up your bill. Water or sewer Base Rates are the set rates to maintain reliable service. Water and sewer Usage is based on your actual usage from item #2.
- **5. Messages:** Additional information about your services are included each month.
- **6. Water Usage History:** This chart shows how much water usage you've used in the past 12 months..
- **7. Detachable Portion:** If paying by mail, include the lower detachable portion with your check. Use the payee details in the Payment Remittance section to complete your check and write your 10-digit Account Number on the front. *Do not send cash by mail.
- **8. Back of Bill:** Very important messages about drought restrictions, rate changes, and infrastructure are frequently featured on the back of the bill or in additional pages.

RATES EXPLAINED

What makes up a base rate?

The monthly water and sewer base rate on your bill is designed to recover the fixed costs of providing water service to your home or business. This includes the cost of maintaining the supply, security, technology, treatment, distribution, service facilities, and customer service.

Water Purchase Adjustment

This surcharge is required by Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals and provides a source of backup, continued water supply. This cost is established at \$0.182 per 1,000 gallons, but shall be adjusted no less than annually, upward or downward, to reflect previous actual water purchases and connection costs.

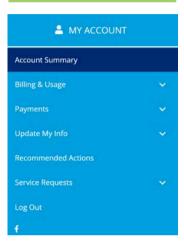
Louisiana DHH OPH SDWA

A monthly charge by the State of Louisiana's Department of Health and Hospitals (DHH), Office of Public Health (OPH) and the federal Safe Drinking Water Act.



Understanding the Online Portal





may need.

Access at: account.mywater.us

Optimize your experience with us!

✓ Manage your bill ✓ Set up alerts ✓ Monitor usage

Account information overview

View bills, analyze usage, and set up paperless billing

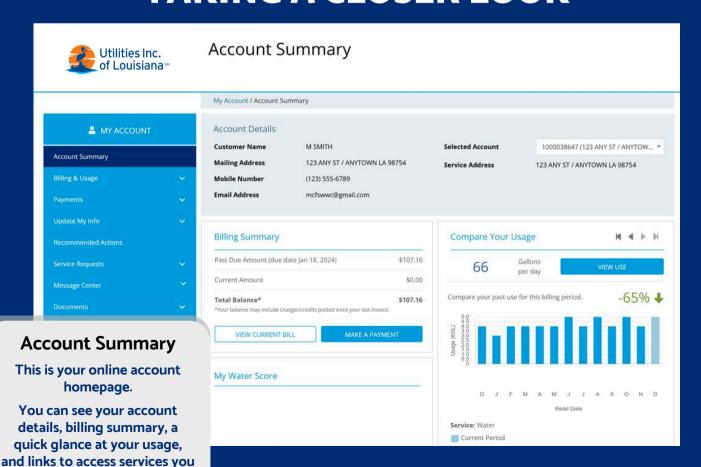
Make payments and set up auto pay

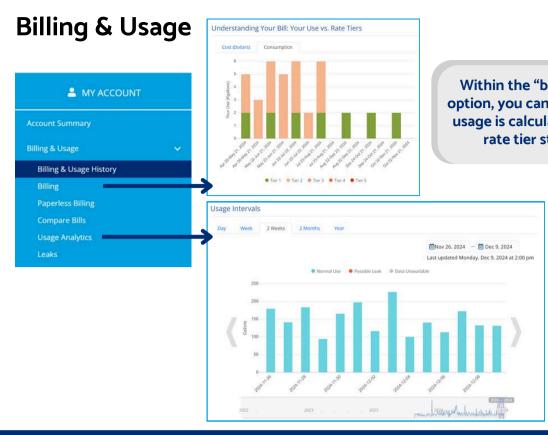
Update contact information and sign up for alerts

Tips on how to cut down on water usage

Contact us for a service visit

TAKING A CLOSER LOOK





Within the "billing" menu option, you can see how your usage is calculated with the rate tier structure.

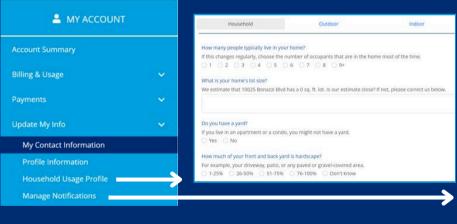
> Go to the "usage analytics" menu option, to see your usage by days, weeks, or months.

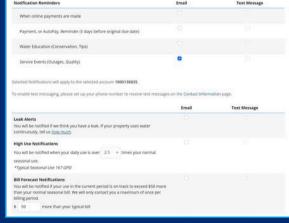
> > You can also see a prediction on what's driving your usage.



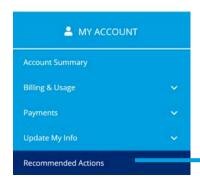
Calculate your Household Usage Profile by answering questions about your habits.

Set alerts for leaks, high usage, bills over a set amount, or for unplanned usage.





Recommended Actions





Get recommendations on how to reduce your water usage.





Water Quality Reports

Because delivering clean water is our business, we adhere to stringent water quality testing and monitoring requirements to ensure that every drop of the water delivered to your home or business meets state and federal health and safety standards.

We also conduct comprehensive yearly testing as required by the U.S. EPA and state legislation. These results are published in Water Quality Reports (WQRs), also known as Consumer Confidence Reports.

The Water Quality Reports are available online at your utility's website. We will also include a link to the report whenever the latest WQR is available.

Why are there Water Quality Reports (WQRs)?

Water Quality Reports are summaries of yearly testing done by EPA-certified laboratories. They inform the public about detected contaminants, their concentrations, and any potential health implications.

This testing helps us benchmark and monitor water quality changes over time, detect new contaminants, and keep our customers informed.

What is in the Water Quality Reports?

Identifying the water source and water type

Definitions of the testing parameters and measuring units

Info from the U.S. EPA and your state's environmental quality organization

When are the reports issued?

We don't wait for a report to test your water. We test your water daily at the treatment plants and at sample spots within the neighborhood. However, the previous year's WQR becomes available in the middle of the current year. This is because the process takes some time to complete.



1. A team of state-certified water quality professionals collects thousands of water samples a year from water supply sources that serve your home or business.



2. All samples are analyzed by state-certified laboratories to ensure that all quality and safety standards are met.



3. These laboratories report the water test samples to the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals



4. The utility receives the results, and then a report of these water test results is prepared by the utility into a Water Quality Report.



Important definitions to remember:

- Maximum Contaminant Level: This number tells you the highest level that the regulatory organization allows of that contaminant.
- Range, Lowest and Highest, or Minimum and Maximum Levels: It's identified differently in each state, but this number(s) tells you what your water tested as.
- Ppb or ppm: These are units of measurement which means 1 part per 1 billion (million) parts of the water. This essentially identifies how small the particle of the contaminant is in the water.



Tips for Managing Water Usage

Watch Your Water Use

Paper Bill

 Use the chart on your monthly bill to monitor your usage over time.

My Account: Recommended Actions

 Go to the "Recommended Actions" section in the portal to explore ways to conserve water and save money on your next bill.

Any device. Anytime. Anywhere.

Smart Irrigation



- Check the usage set on automated sprinkler settings, especially if you have new landscaping.
- Only water your landscaping when the sun is down.
- Grow native plants that are used to the amount of water your region receives.
- Use a rain barrel to capture water to use for your landscaping.
- Set lawn mower blades higher, as longer grass means less evaporation.

Conserve Water at Home



- Check for leaks from your pipes, faucets, toilets, outside taps.
- Install water savings aerators on faucets.
- Use dishwashers and washing machines when they are full.
- Defrost frozen food in the refrigerator or microwave instead of running water.
- If washing dishes by hand, use two basins rather than letting the water run.

Be a Leak Detective!



Leaks are often easy to fix, requiring only a few tools and hardware that can pay for themselves in water savings. Common types of leaks found in the home are worn toilet flappers, dripping faucets, and other leaking valves.

Visit the EPA website for a step-by-step guide to finding and fixing household water leaks. You can also find info about water-efficient plumbing fixtures and more conservation tips.

Go to: www.epa.gov/watersense



Keep Your Sewer System Trouble-Free

What Not to Flush

Protecting your wastewater system starts with knowing **what not to flush.** Your community's wastewater treatment plant is a biological treatment system, and not designed for garbage filtration, so the items listed below can have serious consequences to its operation. **Please reuse, recycle or dispose of everyday items according to local guidelines.**

Don't Flush:













- Prescription Drugs
- Fats, Oils, and Greases (FOG)
- Household Garbage
- Other Bathroom Items
- Dangerous Chemicals
- Cleaning Products
- Plastics, Latex, and Rubber
- Medical Items

Remember: So-called "Flushable" wipes should **never** go down the drain! They only belong in the trash.

Cross Connection & Backflow Prevention

Proper Way to Fill Up Your Pool To avoid back flow, never submerge the hose into the pool when filling it up.

A **cross-connection** is an actual or potential connection between potable water and non-potable water or hazardous material (soapy water, pool water, pesticide, etc.), which can contaminate your drinking water if backflow occurs.

Backflow is an undesirable flow of water or other items back into the pipe, hose, or faucet rather than flowing to the intended point. If the water pressure in your house drops (this can be caused by nearby firefighting or water main break), it can cause the hose to suck water in. Anything that's connected to your hose (be it liquid, solid, or gas) can flow back ("backflow") into the distributing pipes and your drinking water supply.

Cross-connections can result in severe chemical or microbiological contamination events in drinking water systems and temporarily shut down a community's water supply. Avoid them by using your knowledge and common sense.



Investing in Our Communities

While much of the country's water and wastewater systems often go unnoticed, they deliver life-sustaining and public health support every single day. These systems are aging and need continuous investment to avoid crisis situations like we've seen in communities where investment needs are ignored.

You are a crucial part in our ability to create continuous improvement.

Your bill payment supports the infrastructure for the entire water usage cycle. The rates go toward ongoing maintenance and customer service, helping us invest in and upgrading local water and wastewater systems. These investments are critical in supporting public health, protecting watersheds, and addressing future community needs.

It is imperative to continuously invest in systems, many of which are aging, to avoid crisis situations like we've seen in communities where infrastructure needs are ignored. At Utilities Inc. of Louisiana, we work hard to upgrade our local facilities and systems so our customers can trust the service we deliver now and in the future.

How Infrastructure Works

Infrastructure is essential for each step of getting water in and out of your home.

Infrastructure is all the components, from pipes to storage tanks, that allow us to provide the quality water and safely treated wastewater that our communities deserve.

The Source



Water can be sourced from a surface water source (ex. lakes) or groundwater (ex. aquifers) and is pumped out from the source through wells and transported to the treatment plant.

After the water is used for drinking water, becomes wastewater, and then is treated, the water is moved to a spout that returns the water back into the environment.

Treatment and Purification



The infrastructure used for the treatment process can remove solid particles big and very small. Depending on the source, this process will utilize many components to go through each appropriate step of the treatment process. Once all the articles are removed, the water then goes through a purification process.

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Filtration and Disinfection



After water is used in your home, the wastewater goes through a treatment plant to filter out solids like trash and waste. It then undergoes a disinfection process with high end technology to be safe to return back to the environment.

Distribution



Treated water is held in a storage tank and pumps maintain pressure to ensure a reliable flow of supply to your homes. For distribution, there are two major pipe systems: main and service lines. Main lines are crucial because they transport the water from the treatment plant to the start of the neighborhood. Service lines deliver the water from the main line, through the various streets, and then to your homes.