

1136 Washington St. | Columbia, SC 29201 | (803) 545-3400

The Department of Engineering's Administration Division oversees all new sewer tap sales for Columbia Water.

## Who Are Sewer Taps For

- **Inside City of Columbia City Limits**
  - *New Development:* Since 1979, all new development needing wastewater service must drain to Columbia Water's sewer lines.
  - *Septic Systems:* Since 1979, any property that may have used septic is required to tie onto city sewer if the septic system fails or needs servicing.
  - *Ordinance reference:* City Ordinance Sec. 23-151. Use of septic tanks where public sewer is available
- **Outside City of Columbia City Limits**
  - Property owners outside City of Columbia city limits may have the option to continue using a septic system if their jurisdiction allows. These properties may also be tied to Columbia Water sewer if service is available.

## Cost Of A Sewer Tap

Each Columbia Water sewer tap costs \$3,940. This charge covers the sewer tap fee and expansion fee.

- **Sewer Tap Fee**
  - *Cost:* \$1,300
  - *Purpose:* to cover the cost of City forces making the tap
  - *Ordinance reference:* City Ordinance Sec. 23-148. Sewer tapping fee
- **Sewer Plant Expansion Fee**
  - *Cost:* \$2,640
  - *Purpose:* to offset the increased maintenance and construction costs from the additional sewage discharging to the system
  - *Ordinance reference:* City Ordinance Sec. 23-152. Sewer plant expansion fee.

## Financing A Sewer Tap

Property owners needing a sewer tap may either pay the total fee in full or finance the charges. *City Ordinance Sec. 23-154. Extended payment option.*

### Financing Terms

Financing option includes:

- Forty-eight (48) equal monthly installments
- 5.75% interest rate

Property owners financing a new sewer charge will see \$92.08 on their monthly water & sewer bill in addition to their regular usage charges (see *Figure 1: Amortization Schedule* below).

Principal Amount:	<input type="text" value="3940.00"/>	Payment Frequency:	<input type="text" value="Monthly"/>
Payment Amount:	<input type="text" value="92.08"/>	Interest Rate:	<input type="text" value="5.750"/>
First Payment Date:	<input type="text"/>	Number of Payments:	<input type="text" value="48"/>
		Term:	<input type="text" value="48"/>

  

Amortization Schedule					
Payment	Payment Date	Total Payment	Interest	Principal	Balance
1		92.08	18.88	73.20	3866.80
2		92.08	18.53	73.55	3793.25
3		92.08	18.18	73.90	3719.35
4		92.08	17.82	74.26	3645.09
5		92.08	17.47	74.61	3570.48
6		92.08	17.11	74.97	3495.51
7		92.08	16.75	75.33	3420.18
8		92.08	16.39	75.69	3344.49
9		92.08	16.03	76.05	3268.44
Totals:		4419.86	479.86	3940.00	

*Figure 1: Amortization Schedule*

### Financing Steps

- The property owner contacts the Department of Engineering's Special Services at (803) 545-3400 to set up the sewer tap and financing request. The property owner will need to provide the most recent recorded property deed.
- Special Services will draft the tap fee agreement and send over to the City of Columbia Legal Department for legal review.
- Once the document is approved, Special Services will schedule a time with the property owner to sign:
  - The tap fee agreement in the presence of a city attorney **\*\*All individuals listed on the property deed will have to sign the tap fee agreement unless special power of attorney is granted\*\***
  - A service agreement
- The property owner receives a copy of both the tap fee agreement and the service agreement.
- Special Services creates the loan in Columbia Water's billing system and the monthly charges begin.