

Connecting to Columbia Water's Wastewater System

Department of Engineering

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.
- o *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

- o Cost: \$1,300
- o Purpose: to cover the cost of City forces making the tap
- o Ordinance reference: City Ordinance Sec. 23-148. Sewer tapping fee

• Sewer Plant Expansion Fee

- o *Cost:* \$2,640
- Purpose: to offset the increased maintenance and construction costs from the additional sewage discharging to the system
- o Ordinance reference: City Ordinance Sec. 23-152. Sewer plant expansion fee.

We Are Columbia

Version: February 22, 2018

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).

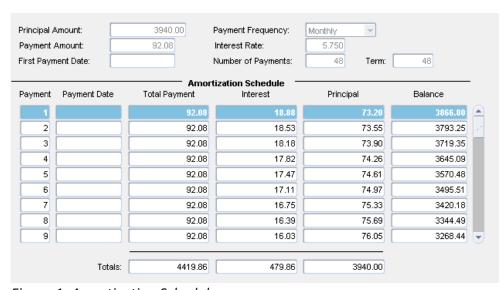


Figure 1: Amortization Schedule

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**
 - o 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.