

The Wastewater Surcharge Program

The purpose of the program is to identify, test, and monitor industries releasing high-strength wastewater to the sanitary system. A surcharge is applied based on a user-pay philosophy to industrial customers who release high-strength wastewater to the sanitary system. This surcharge helps the City off-set operational and maintenance costs associated with the treatment of higher strength wastewater discharges.

What is considered high-strength wastewater?

Industrial discharge that exceeds the wastewater limits for three treatable parameters (see table below) set in the Wastewater Bylaw 14M2012 are considered high strength.

Treatable parameters	Bylaw limits (mg/L)
BOD - Biological Oxygen Demand	300
TSS - Total Suspended Solids	300
O&G - Oil and Grease	100



Bonnybrook Wastewater Treatment Facility



Untreated and treated wastewater

How and where are wastewater discharge samples taken?

Periodically, discrete composite industrial wastewater samples are collected over a 24-hour period at the designated sanitary test manhole and analyzed in an accredited laboratory.

How are wastewater surcharges calculated?

In keeping with a user-pay philosophy, a surcharge is applied to a customer's monthly water consumption, in addition to regular sewer service charges, if wastewater strength is found to be greater than the bylaw limits.

Please take a few minutes to read [The City of Calgary's Wastewater Bylaw 14M2012](#) at calgary.ca to understand how the wastewater surcharge is calculated.

How can I reduce my surcharge bill?

The Surcharge Program promotes the importance of industries having a pre-treatment system to treat wastewater onsite and help reduce the strength of wastewater discharge into our sanitary system. Reducing the amount of higher strength wastewater going into the sanitary system will reduce your monthly surcharge bill.

If you have any question about Surcharge Program, please contact 311.