

# CITY OF DETROIT

## News Release

Water and Sewerage Department

*Dave Bing, Mayor*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**Date: Thursday, August 29, 2013**

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### **DWSD PROVIDES INFORMATION ON STORMWATER BILLING**

The Detroit Water and Sewerage Department (DWSD) recently mailed letters to commercial and industrial customers notifying them of stormwater runoff charges that previously were not included on their bills. There's no cause for alarm. Most commercial customers are unaffected. These charges are not new.

Runoff charges have appeared on the bills of the majority of customers since 1984. However, a recent audit revealed there are more than 1,000 commercial properties in the city of Detroit that were not properly assessed or billed during the period.

In most instances, this oversight is the responsibility of DWSD – not the consumer. For that we apologize.

Since there is a cost to treat stormwater, DWSD is taking corrective action to ensure equity – that all customers pay their fair share of the treatment costs. The formula is based on each property's impervious acreage (hard surfaces that encourage runoff). The rate may vary from property to property.

Customers can calculate the amount of impervious surface area on their properties using a Storm Water Drainage Survey that is available from DWSD. Also, the Storm Water Drainage Survey will help DWSD update its records on the impervious surface areas of properties, especially if changes like demolition or construction have altered the calculation over time.

Customers who believe their stormwater bills are in error may request site inspections from DWSD to confirm changes/reductions in hard surface areas. Billing disputes can be initiated via email to [stormwater@dwsd.org](mailto:stormwater@dwsd.org), or by regular mail to the Commercial Operations Division (Attn: Storm Water Billing), 735 Randolph, Suite 806, Detroit, MI 48226.

More information on stormwater billing is available at Customer Service, (313) 267-8000, or the Permits Unit at (313) 267-8006. Customers may also visit one of the three Customer Service Centers (735 Randolph, First Floor; 13303 E. McNichols; and 15600 Grand River) to speak to a Customer Service Representative on the subject.

General information on stormwater is available on DWSD's website at [www.dwsd.org](http://www.dwsd.org).

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