



INDUSTRIAL WASTE RELATED FEE INCREASES EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2022

In accordance with [§15-10-121 of the Austin City Code](#), industrial wastewater [surcharge fees](#) are charged to businesses that discharge wastewater exceeding “normal” wastewater standards. This is to help cover the cost of treatment of the more heavily concentrated solids and organic matter in industrial wastewater and is required by federal regulations.

Inflation and increased costs due to the pandemic have impacted every business, including Austin Water. And while Austin Water has resisted raising pollutant surcharge fees for over a decade despite cost-of-service steadily increasing, a recent review of the industrial surcharge fees showed that the fees need to be adjusted. This is to better align with the cost-of-service.

To minimize impact to your business, Austin Water will be increasing costs over the course of five (5) years, beginning October 1, 2022. At the conclusion, the fee adjustments will bring the fees to the FY21 cost-of-service.

The updated fee structure for FY23 is as follows:

<i>Fee Item</i>	<i>FY22 Cost (Thru 9/30/2022)</i>	<i>FY23 Cost (Beginning 10/1/2022)</i>
Surcharge BOD/per lb. (BOD exceeding 200 mg/L)	\$0.5043	\$0.5832
Surcharge COD/per lb. (COD exceeding 450 mg/L)	\$0.2242	\$0.2593
Surcharge SS/per lb. (SS exceeding 200 mg/L)	\$0.1087	\$0.2740

Along with the phased increase in industrial surcharge fees, Austin Water will also be implementing an increase in industrial permit fees as of October 1, 2022. This will be a one-time increase of less than \$100.00 for FY23 for all permits except the General Industrial User Permit Fee (Cat 1).

<i>Fee Item</i>	<i>FY22 Cost (Thru 9/30/2022)</i>	<i>FY23 Cost (Beginning 10/1/2022)</i>
<i>General Industrial User Permit Fee (Cat 1)</i>	\$172.92	\$285.36
<i>Significant Industrial User Permit Fee (Cat 2)</i>	\$738.72	\$812.64
<i>Major Industrial User Permit Fee (Cat 3)</i>	\$738.72	\$812.64
<i>Categorical Industrial User Permit Fee (Cat 4)</i>	\$967.68	\$1,064.52

We understand the increased costs will impact your business, so we would like to emphasize that the industrial surcharge fee can be reduced with [water conservation techniques](#) and proper grease trap maintenance if there is a grease trap on site. Best management practices include (but are not limited to):

- Place food waste (chopped, un-chopped or pureed) in the compost, not the drain or trash bin.
- Install and maintain screens over all sink and floor drains.
- Keep waste cooking oil out of drains; instead, collect and sell it to rendering facilities.
- Follow an appropriate grease trap pump-out schedule to keep it functioning properly.
- Do not use prohibited enzymes, bacteria or other agents at your facility.

For more information, view the [Tips to Reduce Your Surcharge](#).

If you have questions or concerns, please refer to the [Frequently Asked Questions](#) (Adobe PDF) and/or contact the Austin Water Special Services Division at 512-972-1060 or industrialwaste@austintexas.gov.