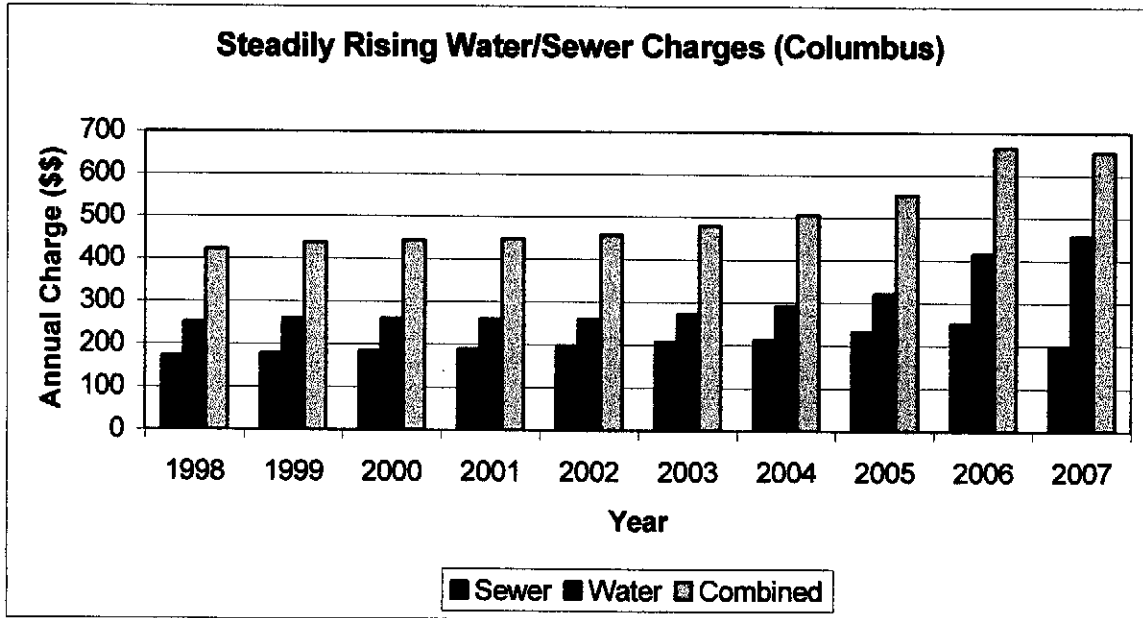




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In addition fees have been added to protect rivers and to adjust for runoff rates based on "impermeable" structures (roofs, parking lots, driveways, etc.). One ERU is 2000 sq ft of impervious area. Sewer is broken down into sanitary and storm sewer rates. These are linked to metered water usage.

### \$val of Unharvested Rainfall on an Average (Columbus) Roof

month	avg rainfall (in.)*	gal/100 sq ft of roof**	\$val (Columbus)***	Value lost	avg roof size 9500 sq feet
Jan	2.53	157.71	\$4.41	\$41.90	Sewer and storm water charges are based on water usage and the "impermeable" surface area (ERU) on the property.
Feb	2.20	137.14	\$3.84	\$36.44	
Mar	2.89	180.16	\$5.04	\$47.86	
Apr	3.25	202.60	\$5.67	\$53.83	
May	3.88	241.87	\$6.76	\$64.26	
June	4.07	253.71	\$7.10	\$67.41	
July	4.61	287.38	\$8.04	\$76.35	
Aug	3.72	231.90	\$6.49	\$61.61	
Sept	2.92	182.03	\$5.09	\$48.36	
Oct	2.31	144.00	\$4.03	\$38.26	
Nov	3.19	198.86	\$5.56	\$52.83	
Dec	2.93	182.65	\$5.11	\$48.53	
				<b>\$637.62 annually</b>	

\* Statistics from National Weather Service  
 \*\* 1 cu ft = 7.48051 gal. 1 CCF (100 cu ft) = 748.051 gal  
 \*\*\* City of Columbus rate for 1 CCF was approximately \$20.92 as of July 2009. This includes a Clean River fee, Sewer, Storm Sewer and water usage.

Roof Area (sq ft)							
100	\$ 0.17	\$ 0.44	\$ 2.18	\$ 2.62	\$ 3.05	\$ 3.49	
500	\$ 0.87	\$ 2.18	\$ 10.90	\$ 13.08	\$ 15.25	\$ 17.43	
1000							
1500							
2000							
2500							
3000							
3500	\$ 6.10	\$ 15.25	\$ 76.27	\$ 91.53	\$ 106.78	\$ 122.03	
4000	\$ 6.97	\$ 17.43	\$ 87.17	\$ 104.60	\$ 122.03	\$ 139.47	
4500	\$ 7.85	\$ 19.61	\$ 98.06	\$ 117.68	\$ 137.29	\$ 156.90	
5000	\$ 8.72	\$ 21.79	\$ 108.96	\$ 130.75	\$ 152.54	\$ 174.33	
5500	\$ 9.59	\$ 23.97	\$ 119.85	\$ 143.83	\$ 167.80	\$ 191.77	
6000	\$ 10.46	\$ 26.15	\$ 130.75	\$ 156.90	\$ 183.05	\$ 209.20	

You might think differently about rain and water in general if you imagined throwing a \$50 dollar bill into the storm sewer every time it rained.

What could you do with that \$50? You could invest it in a rainwater harvesting system. Then, after a few months, you could imagine that \$50 dollar bill going into your savings instead.

At 2009 rates for metered water in Columbus. The rate per CCF includes linked charges for Storm Sewer, Sanitary Sewer, and Clean River Surcharge.

**Time (in Years) to Repay Investment  
sq ft harvest area AND avg rainfall**

investment	\$ 55.93	\$ 111.86	\$ 167.80	\$ 223.73	\$ 279.66	monthly value of harvested water
\$ 100				0.04		
\$ 200				0.07		
\$ 400				0.15		
\$ 800	1.19			0.30		
\$ 1,000	1.49			0.37		
\$ 1,500		1.12		0.56		
\$ 2,000		1.49		0.74		
\$ 3,000			1.49	1.12		
\$ 4,000			1.99	1.49	1.19	
\$ 5,000				1.86	1.49	
\$ 10,000					3.72	
\$ 20,000						7.45

As you can see from the chart at left, the larger your home's footprint, the more you can invest and still see savings within two years.

We normally think of a larger home as having a greater investment in landscaping and therefore more possible uses for harvested water. Many owners of more modest homes, however have invested many years in their lawns and gardens.

Protect your landscaping

investment, your long-term savings and the environment by using rain water before turning it over to the city for disposal. This reduces the burden on your tax dollar as well.