



Effective January 2nd, 2014-A new option for deferred payment of System Development Charges for water and sewer for new Single Family Residence construction

Builders making application for new Single Family Residence (SFR) permits with new water and sewer service will now have the option to defer payment of the water and sewer System Development Charges (SDC)*.

The building permit submittal and review process will be the same, other than the applicant will need to indicate **at the time of submittal** whether they are choosing to defer paying those fees or if they want to pay them when they pick up the building permit. If they choose to defer, there will be two (2) Public Works permits created for the building permit. The first will have an inspection fee for water and sewer and the Transportation Impact Fee (TIF). This will be issued with the building permit along with the storm water permit. The second Public Works permit will have the meter charge, the service charge (if needed), a turn on charge, an inspection fee for the final water connection and the water and sewer SDC. Once this is paid, the service account will be established and the information sent to the Public Works Operations Division to schedule the installation for the service and meter. No work will be done by the water department until these fees have been paid. ***The approximate lead time for a service and/or meter install can be up to 2 weeks so please plan accordingly.***

If the applicant chooses to pay all the fees at the time they pick up their building permit, the established procedures for inspection and installation scheduling remain the same. For deferred payments, the sewer service must be inspected prior to having the meter installed. The SDC and meter fees must be paid in order to schedule the installation.

It is the applicant's responsibility to allow time for city scheduling of the service and/or meter installs. Same day service is not available.

Please note, if you choose to defer the water connection, no water will be available for construction activities until the SDC are paid. Tampering with the water system is a violation of the Bellingham Municipal Code.

* This option will not be available for any properties outside the city limits that have a Utility Service Zone Agreement as they are required to pay all fees and charges prior to obtaining an availability notice from the City.