

Q: What is the Dorchester County Storm Water Ordinance?

A: Click on the link below to view the Storm Water Ordinance.

[Storm Water Ordinance](#)

Q: Why is a Stormwater Utility the best solution to fund stormwater drainage needs?

A: A stormwater utility is the fairest way to operate and maintain the County's stormwater system, meet the requirements of the federal water quality permit and add capital improvements to mitigate existing flooding, erosion and sedimentation problems. Those that generate stormwater runoff from their properties will pay to fund the stormwater system.

Q: What is the responsibility of new development?

A: All new development will be required to follow existing County ordinances. These regulations require the developers to build storm sewer systems and stormwater detention facilities to manage the runoff generated by their developments. Once a lot is developed, that lot will be subject to the same stormwater fee as all the existing lots.

Q: Who pays for stormwater management?

All owners of developed property will be charged a stormwater user fee based on their impact to the system, even those that are otherwise exempt from paying real property taxes (churches, schools, government properties, etc.) Stormwater runoff does not discriminate. For example, the impact that stormwater runoff from a 30,000 square foot parking lot has on the stormwater system is the same whether it is owned by a shopping center, a place of worship or a government agency.

RATES/FEEES

Q: What properties are charged a fee?

A: Every property in Dorchester County, except agricultural property and cemeteries of human remains, with impervious area will pay a stormwater user fee. Single family residential, multi-family residential and non-residential properties will pay the fee, including the County itself.

Q: Why not just bill a flat fee instead of incurring the administrative costs to determine everyone's impervious surface?

A: Billing based on the amount of impervious surface on a property is the most equitable method to determine the fee. Impervious surfaces decrease the amount of infiltration into the ground and increase the amount of runoff that will enter the County's stormwater system. Over the long term, the amount of impervious area on a property is directly related to the amount of stormwater that flows off the property and into the nearby streams and creeks.

Q: How will the money be spent?

A: The enhanced stormwater program funded by the stormwater utility fees will enable the County to meet the requirements of its federally-mandated stormwater permit as well as fund drainage improvement projects, enhanced enforcement and compliance for new development, drainage studies, and public education and outreach. Stormwater fees can only be spent and will only be spent on stormwater-related activities.

Q: Why am I charged a stormwater fee by the Town of Summerville and Dorchester County?

A: Summerville has a fee for the portion of the program that they administer. The County performs a portion of the work for the Town of Summerville and charges a reduced fee to the Town properties (50% discount) for this work.

INFORMATION

Q: Who can I contact for more information?

A: The Stormwater Department will be happy to provide more information on the stormwater program.
(843) 832-0070 or 563-0070.

Comparison of Stormwater Fees charged by neighboring Counties

County	Residence ½ arce 2000 sqf impervious area	Commercial 14.4 ac 140621 sqf impervious area	Large Church 7.04 ac 191660 sqf impervious area	Small Church 1.16 ac 11292 sqf impervious area	School 74 ac 663710 sqf impervious area	Industrial Site 1727 ac 1509313 sqf impervious area
Charleston C factor	36.00	3188.16	1558.62	156.00	9990.00	77715.00
Beaufort 4906 x\$50	25.00	1433.16	1953.32	132.47	6764.37	15382.32
Georgetown 3700 eru X 52	52.00	1976.00	2704.00	208.00	9360.00	21216.00
Horry	29.40	1462.51	1478.60 est.	249.20	7575.04	27000.00_{est}
Dorchester	31.97	1700.85	2282.76	134.28	7667.28	18083.04

County	Camp ground 15.5 ac 148623 sqf impervious area	School Woodland H 91 ac 610236 sqf impervious area	St George Airport 103.4 ac 262806 sqf impervious area	Summerville Airport 198 ac 1064577 sqf impervious area
Charleston C factor	2092.50	12285.00	13972.50	26730.00
Beaufort 4906 x\$50	1514.70	6219.28	2678.41	10849.74
Georgetown 3700 eru X 52	2088.75	8528.00	3744.00	14976.00
Horry	992.88	11654.04	21716.98	41585.72
Dorchester	1790.40	7295.88	3133.20	12756.60

Q: I think my bill may be calculated incorrectly, what should I do?

A: If a customer believes that the stormwater user fee has been billed incorrectly, the customer must file a written appeal to the Public Works Director within thirty days of receipt of the bill. The appeal shall include an accurate description of the properties including Address and Tax Map Number, and a brief statement of the challenge. The customer shall be notified in writing within 60 days of the appeal of a determination regarding their fee.

Q: What is an ERU?

A: The Equivalent Runoff Unit, or ERU, is the base unit for the stormwater user fee, similar to the base unit for other utilities. An ERU is a measure of the amount of impervious surface on a property. One ERU is equal to 3,735 square feet of impervious area. This is the average amount of impervious surface found at the average single family residence in Dorchester County. The charge for one ERU will be \$44.76 per year.