

**Town of Great Barrington  
Board of Sewer Commissioners**

**SEWER ABATEMENT POLICIES**

1. There are two classifications of abatements:

**Temporary** – Typically the result of a water shut off or long-term vacancy.

**Permanent** – Typically caused by a structural change to the building, such as the conversion of a multifamily home to a single family home.

2. Request for abatement must be submitted on the appropriate application form available in the Department of Public Works.
3. Abatement request forms must be received by the Department of Public Works office **prior to the due date of the sewer bill** in question and **may not be retroactive** beyond the period covered by the bill.
4. The minimum charge for each equivalent dwelling unit connected to the sewer system is \$328.50 per six month billing cycle. As sewer rates are adjusted, this minimum charge will be changed to equal one half of the new bill.
5. New units which are connected to the sewer system may apply for a partial abatement if connected for less than three months of the billing period.
6. An equivalent dwelling unit which is unoccupied for the entire billing period is eligible for an abatement of one half of the regular bill. **The vacant status of the dwelling must be verifiable by the Town and the burden of proof rests with the applicant.**
  - A) The best proof of vacant status is water shut off record, although some applications may require visual inspection by staff of the Department of Public Works. Such inspection should be requested as soon as possible after commencement of such a vacancy. Likewise, should unit resume occupancy during a billing cycle without inspection by the Town, no abatement shall be granted for that billing period.
7. The approval of a permanent abatement, which includes the visual inspection of structural conversion of the dwelling, will result in a change to the billing status and no further abatement will be necessary.
8. If the abatement is approved credit will be applied in the next billing cycle.