

Paying your rates

The ins and outs of the rates discount and penalty process

We often get asked questions about penalties that can be charged if people fail to pay their rates. Penalty payments can be avoided if you stick to the payment dates for your first and second rates instalment.

It's important to note that unlike the 'calendar' year that runs from 1 January to 31 December, the New Zealand rating year runs from 1 July to 30 June.

Here's a timeline that shows key dates in the rates calendar. Check out the 'Key things to remember', section under the timeline if you need some more pointers.

Rating year starts: 1 July 2026

Rating year ends: 30 June 2027

Important	First instalment and deadlines	Discount	Penalty	Penalty	Second instalment deadline	Penalty	Important
1 July 2026 10% late payment penalty on all outstanding amounts after this date from the previous year	24 September 2026 First invoice issued	24 September 2026 Pay the full annual rates before this date to receive a 3% discount	26 September 2026 Payments after this date will incur a 10% penalty on any outstanding amounts from the first instalment	1 January 2027 10% late payment penalty from this date on any outstanding amounts from the previous rating year	24 March 2027 Second invoice due	26 March 2027 10% late payment penalty from this date on any outstanding amounts from the second instalment	1 July 2027 10% late payment penalty on all outstanding amounts after this date

Key things to remember:

Discount and penalty dates

- Pay the full annual rates before the 24 September 2026 discount date and receive 3% off your rates.
- To avoid a 10% late payment penalty, you need to pay your first rates instalment before 26 September 2026. For the second rates instalment, you need to pay by 26 March 2027 to avoid a 10% late payment penalty.

Payment options and how they relate to penalty dates

- direct debit (weekly/fortnightly/monthly/six monthly/annually)

- Period Payer Direct debits (weekly, fortnightly or month) are calculated to clear rates by the end of the rating year i.e. 30 June
- Any account with a direct debit automatically has a penalty suppression.
- Direct debits can be set up at any time during the year.

Automatic Payments

- Rates must be paid by the due date if paying by automatic payment.
- There is no penalty suppression if paying by automatic payment.
- Automatic payments need to be managed carefully as you're responsible for ensuring the correct amount is paid before the due date.

If you need further information, please do not hesitate to contact a member of our rates team on 0800 926 732.