

# 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 as long as 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 2021**

Rating Year ends: **30 June 2022**

Important	First instalment and deadlines	Discount	Penalty	Penalty	Second instalment and deadlines		Important
<b>1 July 2021</b> 10% late payment penalty on all outstanding amounts after this date from the previous rating year.	<b>1 September 2021</b> First invoice issued.	<b>24 September 2021</b> Pay the full annual rates before this date to receive a 3% discount.	<b>22 October 2021</b> Payments after this date will incur a 10% penalty from the first instalment.	<b>6 January 2022</b> 10% late payment penalty from this date on any outstanding amounts from the previous rating year.	<b>1 February 2022</b> Second Invoice issued.	<b>25 March 2022</b> Payment after this date will incur a 10% late payment penalty on <b>second</b> instalment invoice.	<b>1 July 2022</b> 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 2021** discount date and receive 3% off your rates.
- To avoid a 10% late payment penalty you need to pay your first rates instalment before **22 October 2021**. For the second rates instalment you need to pay by **25 March 2022** to avoid a 10% late payment penalty.

#### Payment options and how they relate to penalty dates - Direct Debit (monthly/six monthly/annually)

- Direct Debits can only start when your account is up to date.
- If you're paying monthly it's best to start in April or October to minimise the monthly payment amounts.
- This is a sound medium to long term option as all you need to do is have the available funds in your account.

#### Automatic payments

- These types of payments are usually a short term option.
- Automatic payments need to be managed carefully as you're responsible for ensuring the correct amount is paid before the penalty date.

If you need further information please don't hesitate to contact a member of our rates team on 07 571 8008 or 0800 926 732.