

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 2022

Rating year ends: 30 June 2023

Important	First instalment and deadlines	Discount	Penalty	Penalty	Second instalment and deadlines	Penalty	Important	
1 July 2022	1 September 2022	23 September 2022	7 October 2022	1 January 2023	1 March 2023	24 March 2023	7 April 2023	1 July 2023
10% late payment penalty on all outstanding amounts after this date from the previous year	First invoice issued	Pay the full annual rates before this date to receive a 3% discount	Payments after this date will incur a 10% penalty on any outstanding amounts from the first instalment	10% late payment penalty from this date on any outstanding amounts from the previous rating year	Second invoice issued	Second invoice due.	10% late payment penalty from this date on any outstanding amounts from the second instalment	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 23 September 2023 discount date and receive 3% off your rates.
- To avoid a 10% late payment penalty, you need to pay your first rates instalment before 7 October 2022. For the second rates instalment, you need to pay by 7 April 2023 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 do not hesitate to contact a member of our rates team on 0800 926 732.