

**Catawba County
Utilities and Engineering Departmental
Charge Account Policy**

The applicant must complete an application for a charge account.

The Utilities and Engineering Department shall maintain all completed applications.

References must be verified and the account either approved or rejected. If an account is rejected the applicant must be notified in writing.

Account balances are due 30 days from the date of the statement.

A delinquent account paid by worthless check shall immediately be suspended and the account holder shall make all future payments by cash, money order, certified or cashier's bank check. If legal action is required to collect on the worthless check, all check writing abilities and account privileges shall be permanently revoked.

Catawba County will seek criminal charges against anyone who writes a worthless check as payment to their delinquent account. The process of seeking a criminal warrant for their arrest will be carried out by the Catawba County Legal Department.

Account privileges will be permanently revoked if any of the following actions are taken to settle a delinquent account:

- ♦ Legal action through small claims court
- ♦ Submission to the NC State Debt Set-off program
- ♦ Delinquent balance is written off
- ♦ Payment by worthless check as stated above

All fees associated with the collection of an account through the Catawba County Legal Department must be reimbursed to Catawba County; fees associated with the collection of an account include but are not limited to: filing charges, court costs, and attorney fees.

Any monies received by Catawba County from an account holder with a delinquent account will first be applied to the past due balance of his or her account, regardless of the implied direction of payment.

Permit Center Accounts

Applicants must be associated with at least one project¹ prior to becoming eligible to apply for account privileges.

Landfill Accounts

Applications must be associated with at least one project² prior to becoming eligible to apply for account privileges.

A company or person may not use someone else's account unless

- a) the hauler/subcontractor is preapproved per project in writing by the Owner or Prime Contractor, and
- b) the project is assigned a specific approval/project number or other identification by the Owner or Prime Contractor, and

- c) the driver/hauler/subcontractor must provide scale attendant approval/project number or other identification upon entry of the landfill, and
- d) the parties involved must both agree that any mistakes made by their waste hauling employees are between them only and that the entity invoiced is liable for the charges. Catawba County will not become involved with invoice correction between the entities.

Questions concerning this policy may be directed to the Catawba County Legal Department at 828.465.8483 or the Utilities and Engineering Department at 828.465.8261 located at the Government Center in Newton, NC.

¹ Project, in association with Permit Center customers, is defined as “the completion of the financial obligation (*check clearing, credit card approval*) shall be based on the customer’s occupational discipline (*developer, trade contractor, realtor, well driller, grading contractor, etc.*) for a permit or group of permits that are associated with a phase of building construction or land development.”

² Project, in association with Landfill customers is defined the same as Project¹ with the exception of “...the customer’s occupation (*hauler, land clearing contractor, etc.*) that are associated with solid waste hauling, land clearing, demolition, etc.”