

## CHAPTER 95

SANITARY SEWER SYSTEM

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95.01 PURPOSE. The purpose of the chapter of this Code of Ordinances pertaining to Sanitary Sewers is to establish rules and regulations governing the treatment and disposal of sanitary sewage within the City in order to protect the public health, safety and welfare.

95.02 DEFINITIONS. For use in these chapters, unless the context specifically indicates otherwise, the following terms are defined:

1. "B.O.D" (denoting Biochemical Oxygen Demand) means the quantity of oxygen utilized in the biochemical oxidation of organic matter under standard laboratory procedure in five (5) days at twenty (20) degrees C, expressed in milligrams per liter of parts per million.
2. "Building drain" means that part of the lowest horizontal piping of a drainage system which receives the discharge from soil, waste, and other drainage pipes inside the wall of the building and conveys it to the building sewer, beginning five (5) feet (1.5 meters) outside the inner face of the building wall.

(IAC, 567-69.3[1])

3. "Building sewer" means the extension from the building drain to the public sewer or other place of disposal.

(IAC, 567-69.3[1])

4. "Combined sewer" means a sewer receiving both surface run-off and sewage.

5. "Customer" means any person responsible for the production of domestic, commercial or industrial waste which is directly or indirectly discharged into the public sewer system.

6. "Garbage" means solid wastes from the domestic and commercial preparation, cooking and dispensing of food, and from the handling, storage and sale of produce.
7. "Industrial wastes" means the liquid wastes from industrial manufacturing processes, trade, or business as distinct from sanitary sewage.
8. "Inspector" means the person duly authorized by the Council to inspect and approve the installation of building sewers and their connections to the public sewer system; and to inspect such sewerage as may be discharged therefrom.
9. "Natural outlet" means any outlet into a watercourse, pond, ditch, lake, or other body of surface or groundwater.
10. "On-site" wastewater treatment and disposal system" means all equipment and devices necessary for proper conduction, collection, storage, treatment, and disposal of wastewater from a dwelling or other facility serving the equivalent of fifteen person (1500 gpd) or less.
11. "pH" means the logarithm of the reciprocal of the weight of hydrogen ions in grams per liter of solution.
12. "Public sewer" means a sewer in which all owners of abutting properties have equal rights, and is controlled by public authority.
13. "Sanitary sewage" means sewage discharging from the sanitary conveniences of dwellings (including apartment houses and hotels), office buildings, factories or institutions, and free from storm, surface water and industrial waste.
14. "Sanitary sewer" means a sewer which carries sewage and to which storm, surface, and groundwaters are not intentionally admitted.
15. "Sewage" means a combination of the water-carried wastes from residences, business buildings, institutions, and industrial establishments, together with such ground, surface, and storm waters as may be present.
16. "Sewage treatment plant" means any arrangement of devices and structures used for treating sewage.
17. "Sewage works" or "sewage system" means all facilities for collecting, pumping, treating, and disposing of sewage.

18. "Sewer" means a pipe or conduit for carrying sewage.
19. "Sewer service charge" means any and all charges, rates or fees levied against and payable by customers, as consideration for the servicing of said customers by said sewer system.
20. "Slug" means any discharge of water, sewage, or industrial waste which is concentration of any given constituent or in quantity of flow exceeds for any period of duration longer than fifteen (15) minutes more than five (5) times the average twenty-four (24) hour concentration or flows during normal operation.
21. "Storm drain or storm sewer" means a sewer which carries storm and surface waters and drainage but excludes sewage and industrial wastes, other than unpolluted cooling water.
22. "Superintendent" means the Superintendent of sewage works and/or of water pollution control of the City or any authorized deputy, agent, or representative.
23. "Suspended solids" means solids that either float on the surface of, or are in suspension in water, sewage, or other liquids, and which are removable by laboratory filtering.
24. "Watercourse" means a channel in which a flow of water occurs, either continuously or intermittently.

95.03 PROHIBITED ACTS. No person shall do, or allow, any of the following:

1. Damage Sewer System. Maliciously, willfully, or negligently break, damage, destroy, uncover, deface or tamper with any structure, appurtenance or equipment which is part of the sewer system.  
(Code of Iowa, Sec. 716.1)
2. Surface Run-off or Groundwater. Connect a roof downspout, sump pump, exterior foundation drain, areaway drain, or other source of surface run-off or groundwater to a building sewer or building drain which in turn is connected directly or indirectly to a public sanitary sewer.
3. Manholes. Open or enter any manhole of the sewer system, except by authority of the Superintendent.

4. **Objectionable Wastes.** Place or deposit in any unsanitary manner on public or private property within the City, or in any area under the jurisdiction of the City, any human or animal excrement, garbage, or other objectionable waste.

5. **Septic Tanks.** Construct or maintain any privy, privy vault, septic tank, cesspool, or other facility intended or used for the disposal of sewage except as provided in these chapters.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 364.12[3f])

6. **Untreated Discharge.** Discharge to any natural outlet within the City, or in any area under its jurisdiction, any sanitary sewage, industrial wastes, or other polluted waters, except where suitable treatment has been provided in accordance with subsequent provisions of these chapters.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 364.12[3f])

**95.04 SEWER CONNECTION REQUIRED.** The owners of any houses, buildings, or properties used for human occupancy, employment, recreation or other purposes, situated within the City and abutting any street, alley or right-of-way in which there is now located, or may in the future be located, a public sanitary or combined sewer, are hereby required to install, at such owner's expense, suitable toilet facilities therein and a building sewer connecting such facilities directly with the proper public sewer, and to maintain such compliance to be completed within thirty (30) days after the date of official notice from the City to do so provided that said public sewer is located within one hundred (100) feet (30.5 meters) or the property line of such owner and is of such design as to receive and convey by gravity such sewage as may be conveyed to it. Billing for sanitary sewer service will begin the date of official notice to connect to the public sewer. The Grimes City Council may waive any or all of the requirements of this section upon petition of the property owner.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 364.12[3f])

(IAC, 567-69.3[3])

**95.05 UNIFORM PLUMBING CODE.** Connection requirements, construction standards and penalties for violation associated with building sewers and connections to the City's public sewer are provided in the Uniform Plumbing Code, as adopted by the City. (See Chapter 155 of this Code of Ordinances.)

**95.06 ABANDONED CONNECTIONS.** When an existing sewer service is abandoned or a service is renewed, all abandoned building sewers shall be plugged or capped in accordance with the Uniform Plumbing Code. A building sewer shall be considered abandoned unless a building permit for a replacement structure which requires sewer service has been applied for, approved and cost

paid. If this exception applies, then the building sewer to be reused shall be temporarily disconnected at the property line in a manner approved by the Superintendent. This procedure shall be required at the same time the demolition permit is issued.

95.07 SERVICE OUTSIDE THE CITY. The owners of property outside the corporate limits of the City so situated that it may be served by the City sewer system may apply to the Council for permission to connect to the public sewer upon the terms and conditions stipulated by resolution of the Council.

95.08 RIGHT OF ENTRY. The Superintendent and other duly authorized employees of the City bearing proper credentials and identification shall be permitted to enter all properties for the purpose of inspection, observation, measurement, sampling, and testing in accordance with the provisions of these Sanitary Sewer chapters. The Superintendent or representatives shall have no authority to inquire into any processes including metallurgical, chemical, oil, refining, ceramic, paper, or other industries beyond that point having a direct bearing on the kind and source of discharge to the sewers or waterways or facilities for waste treatment.

95.09 OWNER'S LIABILITY LIMITED. While performing the necessary work on private property, the Superintendent or duly authorized employees of the City shall observe all safety rules applicable to the premise established by the owner or occupant and the owner or occupant shall be held harmless for injury or death to City employees and the City shall indemnify the owner or occupant against loss or damage to its property by City employees and against liability claims and demands for personal injury or property damage asserted against the owner or occupant and growing out of any gauging and sampling operation, except as much may be caused by negligence or failure of the owner or occupant to maintain safe conditions.

95.10 USE OF EASEMENTS. The Superintendent and other duly authorized employees of the City bearing proper credentials and identification shall be permitted to enter all private properties through which the City holds a duly negotiated easement for the purposes of, but not limited to inspection, observation, measurement, sampling, repair, and maintenance of any portion of the sewage works lying within said easement. All entry and subsequent work, if any, on said easement, shall be done in full accordance with terms of the duly negotiated easement pertaining to the private property involved.

95.11 SPECIAL PENALTIES. The following special penalty provisions shall apply to violations of these Sanitary Sewer chapters:

1. Notice of Violation. Any person found to be violating any provision of these chapters except subsection 1, 3 and 4 of Section 95.04, shall be served by the City with written notice stating the nature of the violation and providing a reasonable time limit for the satisfactory correction thereof. The offender shall, within the period of time stated in such notice, permanently cease all violations.
2. Continuing Violations. Any person who shall continue any violation beyond the time limit provided for in subsection 1 hereof, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and on conviction thereof shall be fined an amount not exceeding one hundred dollars (\$100.00) for each violation. Each day in any such violation shall be deemed a separate offense.
3. Liability Imposed. Any person violating any of the provisions of these chapters shall become liable to the City for any expense, loss, or damage occasioned by the City by reason of such violation.

95.12 DRY SEWER SYSTEM. In addition to constructing a private sewage disposal system in accordance with the Uniform Plumbing Code, an owner shall construct a dry sewer system to all buildings or properties that are situated in the City which are not used for human occupancy even if a public sewer is not presently available. "Dry sewer system" means the completed assemblage of a sewer system that is capable of being connected to a public sewer once such service is available at that particular location.