

CHAPTER 96

BUILDING SEWERS AND CONNECTIONS

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96.01 PERMIT REQUIRED. No unauthorized person shall uncover, make any connection with or opening into, use, alter or disturb any public sewer or appurtenance thereof without first obtaining a written permit from the City in accordance with the following:

1. Application. Any person desiring to make a connection with the sewer system shall first file with the City an application therefor, on blanks furnished by the City, setting forth the location and description of the property to be connected with the sewer system and for what purpose the sewer is to be used.
2. Plans and Specifications. The permit application shall be supplemented by any plans, specifications, or other information considered pertinent in the judgment of the Community Development Director or other duly authorized employee of the City.
3. Classes of Permits. There are three (3) classes of building sewer permits.
 - A. For residential and commercial service.
 - B. For service to establishments producing industrial wastes.
 - C. For a connection to an existing building sewer already connected to the public sewer.
4. Permit Fee. The person who makes the application shall pay the following fee to the City to cover the cost of issuing the permit and supervising, regulating and inspecting the work:
 - A. One-family - \$75.00 plus \$10.00 inspection fee;
 - B. Duplex - \$150.00 (one sewer allowable) plus \$10.00 inspection fee;
 - C. Apartments - \$150.00 for the first two units, and \$20.00 for each unit thereafter, plus \$10.00 inspection fee.
 - D. All other connections - \$75.00 plus \$10.00 inspection fee;
 - E. Unusual service connection fees will be determined by the Council when unusually high water use is anticipated, plus the \$10.00 inspection fee.

5. Limited Responsibility for Permit Revocation. All sewer connection permits shall be given upon the express condition that the Council may at any time before the work is completed revoke and annul the same and no party interested shall have a right to claim damages in consequence of any such permits being revoked or annulled.
6. Bond Required. The person performing the connecting shall provide a surety bond in the sum of five thousand dollars (\$5,000.00) secured by a responsible surety bonding company authorized to operate within the State, conditioned to indemnify and save the City harmless against all losses or damages that may arise from or be occasioned by the making of connections with the public sewers or excavations therefor or by carelessness, negligence or unskillfulness in making the same. Such bond shall remain in force and must be executed for a period of one year except that on such expiration it shall remain in force as to all penalties, claims and demands that may have accrued thereunder prior to such expiration.
7. Connection Charge. All applications filed to provide connection to properties subject to a connection charge as required by Chapter 100 of this Code of Ordinances shall be accompanied by the fee required thereunder.

96.02 PLUMBER REQUIRED. All installations of building sewers and connections to the public sewer shall be made by a plumber approved by the City. The Director of Public Works or the Community Development Director shall have the power to suspend the approval of any plumber for violation of any of the provisions of these Sanitary Sewer chapters; a suspension, unless revoked, shall continue until the next regular meeting of the Council. The Director of Public Works or Community Development Director shall notify the plumber immediately by personal written notice of the suspension, the reasons for the suspension, and the time and place of the Council meeting at which the plumber will be granted a hearing. At this Council meeting the Director of Public Works or the Community Development Director shall make a written report to the Council stating the reasons for the suspension, and the Council, after fair hearing, shall affirm or revoke the suspension or take any further action that is necessary and proper.

96.03 EXCAVATIONS. All excavations for building sewer installations shall be made in accordance with the following: (See also Chapters 135 & 167)

1. Barricades and Lighting. Adequate barricades and warning lights shall be so placed as to protect the public from hazard.
2. Public Convenience. Streets and alleys shall be opened in the manner which will cause the least inconvenience to the public and admit the uninterrupted passage of water along the gutter on the street.
3. Construction Methods. All excavation required for the installation of a building sewer shall be open trench work unless otherwise approved by the City. Pipe laying and backfill shall be performed in accordance with OSHA

for municipal construction except that no backfill shall be placed until the work has been inspected.

4. Restoration of Public Property. Streets, sidewalks, parkways and other public property disturbed in the course of the work shall be restored in a manner satisfactory to the City, at the expense of the property owner or those responsible for disturbing property.

5. Completion by the City. Should any excavation in any street be left open or unfinished for a period of twenty-four (24) hours or should the work be improperly done, the Director of Public Works shall have the right to finish or correct such work and the expense shall be charged to the responsible party.

96.04 CONNECTION REQUIREMENTS. Any connection with a public sanitary sewer must be made under the direct supervision of the inspector and in accordance with the following:

1. Old Building Sewers. Old building sewers may be used in connection with new buildings only when they are found, on examination and test conducted by the owner and observed by the inspector, to meet all requirements of this chapter.

2. Separate Building Sewers. A separate and independent building sewer shall be provided for every occupied building; except where one building stands at the rear of another on an interior lot and no private sewer is available or can be constructed to the rear building through an adjoining alley, court, yard, or driveway.

3. Installation. The connection of the building sewer into the public sewer shall conform to the requirements of the Building Code and Plumbing Code. All such connections shall be made gastight and watertight.

4. Water Lines. When possible, building sewers should be laid at least ten (10) feet horizontally from a water service. The horizontal separation may be less, provided the water service line is located at one side and at least twelve (12) inches above the top of the building sewer.

5. Materials and Methods. The size, slope, alignment, materials of construction of a building sewer, and the methods to be used in excavating, placing of the pipe, jointing, testing, and backfilling the trench, shall all conform to the requirements of the Building Code and Plumbing Code.

6. Depth. Whenever possible, the building sewer shall be brought to the building at an elevation below the basement floor. The depth of cover above the sewer shall be sufficient to afford protection from frost.

7. Sewage Lifts. In all buildings in which any building drain is too low to permit gravity flow to the public sewer, sanitary sewage carried by such drain shall be lifted by approved artificial means and discharged to the building sewer.

8. Bearing Walls. No building sewer shall be laid parallel to, or within five (5) feet of any bearing wall, which might thereby be weakened.

9. Preparation of Basement or Crawl Space. No connection for any residence, business or other structure with any sanitary sewer shall be made unless the basement floor is poured, or in the case of a building with a slab or crawl space, unless the ground floor is installed with the area adjacent to the foundation of such building cleared of debris and backfilled. The backfill shall be well compacted and graded so that the drainage is away from the foundation. Prior to the time the basement floor is poured, or the first floor is installed in buildings without basements, the sewer shall be plugged and the plug shall be sealed. Any accumulation of water in any excavation or basement during construction and prior to connection to the sanitary sewer shall be removed by means other than draining into the sanitary sewer.

96.05 INTERCEPTORS REQUIRED. Grease, oil, sludge and sand interceptors shall be provided by gas and service stations, convenience stores, car washes, garages, and other facilities when, in the opinion of the inspector, they are necessary for the proper handling of such wastes that contain grease in excessive amounts or any flammable waste, sand or other harmful ingredients. Such interceptors shall not be required for private living quarters or dwelling units. When required, such interceptors shall be installed in accordance with the following:

1. Design and Location. All interceptors shall be of a type and capacity as provided by the Iowa Public Health Bulletin and National Plumbing Code, to be approved by the inspector, and shall be located so as to be readily and easily accessible for cleaning and inspection.
2. Construction Standards. The interceptors shall be constructed of impervious material capable of withstanding abrupt and extreme changes in temperature. They shall be of substantial construction, watertight and equipped with easily removable covers that shall be gastight and watertight.
3. Maintenance. All such interceptors shall be maintained by the owner at the owner's expense and shall be kept in continuously efficient operations at all times.

96.06 SEWER TAP. Connection of the building sewer into the public sewer shall be made at the "Y" branch, if such branch is available at a suitable location. If no properly located "Y" branch is available, a tapping saddle shall be installed at the location specified by the Director of Public Works. The public sewer shall be tapped with a tapping machine and a saddle appropriate to the type of public sewer shall be glued and attached with stainless steel clamps to the sewer. At no time shall a building sewer be constructed so as to enter a manhole unless special written permission is received from the Director of Public Works and in accordance with the direction of the Director of Public Works if such connection is approved.

96.07 INSPECTION REQUIRED. All connections with the sanitary sewer system before being covered shall be inspected and approved by the inspector. As soon as all

pipe work from the public sewer to inside the building has been completed, and before any backfilling is done, the inspector shall inspect and test the work as to workmanship and material; no sewer pipe laid under ground shall be covered or trenches filled until after the sewer has been so inspected and approved. If the inspector or other duly authorized representative refuses to approve the work, the plumber or owner must proceed immediately to correct the work.

96.08 PROPERTY OWNER'S RESPONSIBILITY. All costs and expenses incident to the installation, connection and maintenance of the building sewer from the public sewer to the building, including interior piping, shall be borne by the owner. The owner shall indemnify the City from any loss or damage that may directly or indirectly be occasioned by the installation of the building sewer.

96.09 ABATEMENT OF VIOLATIONS. Construction or maintenance of building sewer lines whether located upon the private property of any owner or in the public right-of-way, which construction or maintenance is in violation of any of the requirements of this chapter, shall be corrected, at the owner's expense, within thirty (30) days after date of official notice from the Building Department of such violation. If not made within such time the Director of Public Works shall, in addition to the other penalties herein provided, have the right to finish and correct the work and assess the cost thereof to the property owner. Such assessment shall be collected with and in the same manner as general property taxes.

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

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