

## TITLE 18

### WATER AND SEWERS<sup>1</sup>

#### CHAPTER

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#### CHAPTER 1

### WATER AND SEWERS

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**18-101. Application and scope.** The provisions of this chapter are a part of all contracts for receiving water and/or sewer service from the municipality and shall apply whether the service is based upon contract, agreement, signed application, or otherwise. (1974 Code, § 13-101)

**18-102. Definitions.** (1) "Customer" means any person, firm, or corporation who receives water and/or sewer service from the municipality under either an express or implied contract.

(2) "Household" means any two (2) or more persons living together as a family group.

(3) "Service line" shall consist of the pipe line extending from any water or sewer main of the municipality to private property. Where a meter and meter box are located on private property, the service line shall be construed to include the pipe line extending from the municipality's water main to and including the meter and meter box.

(4) "Discount date" shall mean the date ten (10) days after the date of a bill, except when some other date is provided by contract. The discount date is the last date upon which water and/or sewer bills can be paid at net rates.

(5) "Dwelling" means any single structure, with auxiliary buildings, occupied by one or more persons or households for residential purposes.

(6) "Premises" means any structure or group of structures operated as a single business or enterprise, provided, however, the term "premise" shall not include more than one (1) dwelling. (1974 Code, § 13-102)

**18-103. Obtaining service.** A formal application for either original or additional service must be made and be approved by the municipality before connection or meter installation orders will be issued and work performed. (1974 Code, § 13-103)

**18-104. Application and contract for service.** Each prospective customer desiring water and/or sewer service will be required to sign a standard form contract before service is supplied. If, for any reason, a customer, after signing a contract for service, does not take such service by reason of not occupying the premises or otherwise, he shall reimburse the municipality for the expense incurred by reason of its endeavor to furnish such service.

The receipt of a prospective customer's application for service, regardless of whether or not accompanied by a deposit, shall not obligate the municipality to render the service applied for. If the service applied for cannot be supplied in accordance with the provisions of this chapter and general practice, the liability for the municipality to the applicant shall be limited to the return of any deposit made by such applicant. (1974 Code, § 13-104)

**18-105. Service charges for temporary service.** Customers requiring temporary service shall pay all costs for connection and disconnection incidental to the supplying and removing of service in addition to the regular charge for water and/or sewer service. (1974 Code, § 13-105)

**18-106. Connection charges.** Service lines will be laid by the municipality from its mains to the property line at the expense of the applicant for service. The location of such lines will be determined by the municipality.

Before a new water or sewer service line will be laid by the municipality, the applicant shall make a deposit equal to the estimated cost of the installation.

This deposit shall be used to pay the cost of laying such new service line and appurtenant equipment. If such cost exceeds the amount of the deposit, the applicant shall pay to the municipality the amount of such excess cost when billed therefor. If such cost is less than the amount of the deposit, the amount by which the deposit exceeds such cost shall be refunded to the applicant.

When a service line is completed, the municipality shall be responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of such service line from the main to and including the meter and meter box, and such portion of the service line shall belong to the municipality. The remaining portion of the service line beyond the meter box (or property line, in the case of sewers) shall belong to and be the responsibility of the customer. (1974 Code, § 13-106)

**18-107. Water and sewer main extensions.** Persons desiring water and/or sewer main extensions must pay all of the cost of making such extensions.

For water main extensions cement-lined cast iron pipe, class 150 American Waterworks Association Standard (or other construction approved by the governing body), not less than six (6) inches in diameter shall be used to the dead end of any line and to form loops or continuous lines, so that fire hydrants may be placed on such lines at locations no farther than 1,000 feet from the most distant part of any dwelling structure and no farther than 600 feet from the most distant part of any commercial, industrial, or public building, such measurements to be based on road or street distances; cement-lined cast iron pipe (or other construction approved by the governing body) two (2) inches in

diameter, to supply dwellings only, may be used to supplement such lines. For sewer main extensions eight-inch pipe of vitrified clay or other construction approved by the governing body shall be used.

All such extensions shall be installed either by municipal forces or by other forces working directly under the supervision of the municipality in accordance with plans and specifications prepared by an engineer registered with the State of Tennessee.

Upon completion of such extensions and their approval by the municipality, such water and/or sewer mains shall become the property of the municipality. The persons paying the cost of constructing such mains shall execute any written instruments requested by the municipality to provide evidence of the municipality's title to such mains. In consideration of such mains being transferred to it, the municipality shall incorporate said mains as an integral part of the municipal water and sewer systems and shall furnish water and sewer service therefrom in accordance with these rules and regulations, subject always to such limitations as may exist because of the size and elevation of the mains. (1974 Code, § 13-108)

**18-108. Water and sewer main extension variances.** Whenever the governing body is of the opinion that it is to the best interest of the municipality and its inhabitants to construct a water and/or sewer main extension without requiring strict compliance with the preceding section, such extension may be constructed upon such terms and conditions as shall be approved by the governing body.

The authority to make water and/or sewer main extensions under the preceding section is permissive only and nothing contained therein shall be construed as requiring the municipality to make such extensions or to furnish service to any person or persons. (1974 Code, § 13-109)

**18-109. Meters.** All meters shall be installed, tested, repaired, and removed only by the municipality.

No one shall do anything which will in any way interfere with or prevent the operation of a meter. No one shall tamper with or work on a water meter without the written permission of the municipality. No one shall install any pipe or other device which will cause water to pass through or around a meter without the passage of such water being registered fully by the meter. (1974 Code, § 13-110)

**18-110. Meter tests.** The municipality will, at its own expense, make routine tests of meters when it considers such tests desirable.

In testing meters, the water passing through a meter will be weighed or measured at various rates of discharge and under varying pressures. To be

considered accurate, the meter registration shall check with the weighed or measured amounts of water within the percentage shown in the following table:

<u>Meter Size</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
5/8", 3/4", 1", 2"	2%
3"	3%
4"	4%
6"	5%

The municipality will also make tests or inspections of its meters at the request of the customer. However, if a test requested by a customer shows a meter to be accurate within the limits stated above, the customer shall pay a meter testing charge in the amount stated in the following table:

<u>Meter Size</u>	<u>Test Charge</u>
5/8", 3/4", 1"	\$ 2.00
1-1/2", 2"	5.00
3"	8.00
4"	12.00
6" and over	20.00

If such test shows a meter not to be accurate within such limits, the cost of such meter test shall be borne by the municipality. (1974 Code, § 13-111)

**18-111. Multiple services through a single meter.** No customer shall supply water or sewer service to more than one dwelling or premise from a single service line and meter without first obtaining the written permission of the municipality.

Where the municipality allows more than one dwelling or premise to be served through a single service line and meter, the amount of water used by all the dwellings and premises served through a single service line and meter shall be allocated to each separate dwelling or premise served. The water and/or sewer charges for each such dwelling or premise thus served shall be computed just as if each such dwelling or premise had received through a separately metered service the amount of water so allocated to it, such computation to be made at the municipality's applicable water rates schedule, including the provisions as to minimum bills. The separate charges for each dwelling or premise served through a single service line and meter shall then be added together, and the sum thereof shall be billed to the customer in whose name the service is supplied. (1974 Code, § 13-113)

**18-112. Billing.** Bills for residential water and sewer service will be rendered monthly.

Bills for commercial and industrial service may be rendered weekly, semimonthly, or monthly, at the option of the municipality.

Both charges shall be collected as a unit; no municipal employee shall accept payment of water service charges from any customer without receiving at the same time payment of all sewer service charges owed by such customer. Water service may be discontinued for non-payment of the combined bill.

Water and sewer bills must be paid on or before the discount date shown thereon to obtain the net rate, otherwise the gross rate shall apply. Failure to receive a bill will not release a customer from payment obligation, nor extend the discount date.

In the event a bill is not paid on or before five (5) days after the discount date, a written notice shall be mailed to the customer. The notice shall advise the customer that his service may be discontinued without further notice if the bill is not paid on or before ten (10) days after the discount date. The municipality shall not be liable for any damages resulting from discontinuing service under the provisions of this section, even though payment of the bill is made at any time on the day that service is actually discontinued.

Should the final date of payment of bill at the net rate fall on Sunday or a holiday, the business day next following the final date will be the last day to obtain the net rate. A net remittance received by mail after the time limit for payment at the net rate will be accepted by the municipality if the envelope is date-stamped on or before the final date for payment of the net amount.

If a meter fails to register properly, or if a meter is removed to be tested or repaired, or if water is received other than through a meter, the municipality reserves the right to render an estimated bill based on the best information available. (1974 Code, § 13-114)

**18-113. Discontinuance or refusal of service.** The municipality shall have the right to discontinue water and/or sewer service or to refuse to connect service for a violation of, or a failure to comply with, any of the following:

- (1) These rules and regulations.
- (2) The customer's application for service.
- (3) The customer's contract for service.

Such right to discontinue service shall apply to all service received through a single connection or service, even though more than one (1) customer or tenant is furnished services therefrom, and even though the delinquency or violation is limited to only one such customer or tenant.

Discontinuance of service by the municipality for any cause stated in these rules and regulations shall not release the customer from liability for

service already received or from liability for payments that thereafter become due under other provisions of the customer's contract. (1974 Code, § 13-115)

**18-114. Re-connection charge.** Whenever service has been discontinued as provided for above, a re-connection charge of ten dollars (\$10.00) shall be collected by the municipality before service is restored. (1974 Code, § 13-116, modified)

**18-115. Termination of service by customer.** Customers who have fulfilled their contract terms and wish to discontinue service must give at least three (3) days written notice to that effect unless the contract specifies otherwise. Notice to discontinue service prior to the expiration of a contract term will not relieve the customer from any minimum or guaranteed payment under such contract or applicable rate schedule.

When service is being furnished to an occupant of premises under a contract not in the occupant's name, the municipality reserves the right to impose the following conditions on the right of the customer to discontinue service under such a contract:

(1) Written notice of the customer's desire for such service to be discontinued may be required; and the municipality shall have the right to continue such service for a period of not to exceed ten (10) days after receipt of such written notice, during which time the customer shall be responsible for all charges for such service. If the municipality should continue service after such ten (10) day period subsequent to the receipt of the customer's written notice to discontinue service, the customer shall not be responsible for charges for any service furnished after the expiration of the ten (10) day period.

(2) During the ten (10) day period, or thereafter, the occupant of premises to which service has been ordered discontinued by a customer other than such occupant, may be allowed by the municipality to enter into a contract for service in the occupant's own name upon the occupant's complying with these rules and regulations with respect to a new application for service. (1974 Code, § 13-117)

**18-116. Access to customers' premises.** The municipality's identified representatives and employees shall be granted access to all customers' premises at all reasonable times for the purpose of reading meters, for testing, inspecting, repairing, removing, and replacing all equipment belonging to the municipality, and for inspecting customers' plumbing and premises generally in order to secure compliance with these rules and regulations. (1974 Code, § 13-118)

**18-117. Inspections.** The municipality shall have the right, but shall not be obligated, to inspect any installation or plumbing system before water and/or sewer service is furnished or at any later time. The municipality reserves the right to refuse service or to discontinue service to any premises not meeting standards fixed by municipal ordinances regulating building and plumbing, or not in accordance with any special contract, these rules and regulations, or other requirements of the municipality.

Any failure to inspect or reject a customer's installation or plumbing system shall not render the municipality liable or responsible for any loss or damage which might have been avoided, had such inspection or rejection been made. (1974 Code, § 13-119)

**18-118. Customer's responsibility for system's property.** Except as herein elsewhere expressly provided, all meters, service connections, and other equipment furnished by or for the municipality shall be and remain the property of the municipality. Each customer shall provide space for and exercise proper care to protect the property of the municipality on his premises. In the event of loss or damage to such property, arising from the neglect of a customer to care for same, the cost of necessary repairs or replacements shall be paid by the customer. (1974 Code, § 13-120)

**18-119. Customer's responsibility for violations.** Where the municipality furnishes water and/or sewer service to a customer, such customer shall be responsible for all violations of these rules and regulations which occur on the premises so served. Personal participation by the customer in any such violations shall not be necessary to impose such personal responsibility on him. (1974 Code, § 13-121)

**18-120. Supply and resale of water.** All water shall be supplied within the municipality exclusively by the municipality and no customer shall, directly or indirectly, sell, sublet, assign, or otherwise dispose of the water or any part thereof, except with written permission from the municipality. (1974 Code, § 13-122)

**18-121. Unauthorized use of or interference with water supply.** No person shall turn on or turn off any of the municipality's stop cocks, valves, hydrants, spigots, or fire plugs without permission or authority from the municipality. (1974 Code, § 13-123)

**18-122. Limited use of unmetered private fire line.** Where a private fire line is not metered, no water shall be used from such line or from

any fire hydrant thereon, except to fight fire or except when being inspected in the presence of an authorized agent of the municipality.

All private fire hydrants shall be sealed by the municipality, and shall be inspected at regular intervals to see that they are in proper condition and that no water is being used therefrom in violation of these rules and regulations. When the seal is broken on account of fire, or for any other reason, the customer taking such service shall immediately give the municipality a written notice of such occurrence. (1974 Code, § 13-124)

**18-123. Damages to property due to water pressure.** The municipality shall not be liable to any customer for damages caused to his plumbing or property by high pressure, low pressure, or fluctuations in pressure in the municipality's water mains. (1974 Code, § 13-125)

**18-124. Liability for cutoff failures.** The municipality's liability shall be limited to the forfeiture of the right to charge a customer for water that is not used but is received from a service line under any of the following circumstances:

(1) After receipt of at least ten (10) days' written notice to cut off water service, the municipality has failed to cut off such service.

(2) The municipality has attempted to cut off a service but such service has not been completely cut off.

(3) The municipality has completely cut off a service, but subsequently, the cutoff develops a leak or is turned on again so that water enters the customer's pipes from the municipality's main.

Except to the extent stated above, the municipality shall not be liable for any loss or damage resulting from cutoff failures. If a customer wishes to avoid possible damage for cutoff failures, the customer shall rely exclusively on privately owned cutoffs and not on the municipality's cutoff. Also the customer (and not the municipality) shall be responsible for seeing that his plumbing is properly drained and is kept properly drained, after his water service has been cut off. (1974 Code, § 13-126)

**18-125. Restricted use of water.** In times of emergencies or in times of water shortage, the municipality reserves the right to restrict the purposes for which water may be used by a customer and the amount of water which a customer may use. (1974 Code, § 13-127)

**18-126. Interruption of service.** The municipality will endeavor to furnish continuous water and sewer service, but does not guarantee to the customer any fixed pressure or continuous service. The municipality shall not be liable for any damage for any interruption of service whatsoever.

In connection with the operation, maintenance, repair, and extension of the municipal water and sewer systems, the water supply may be shut off without notice when necessary or desirable and each customer must be prepared for such emergencies. The municipality shall not be liable for any damage from such interruption of service or for damages from the resumption of service without notice after any such interruption. (1974 Code, § 13-128)

**18-127. Schedule of rates.** All water and sewer service shall be furnished under such rate schedules as the municipality may from time to time adopt by appropriate ordinance or resolution.<sup>1</sup> (1974 Code, § 13-112)

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<sup>1</sup>Administrative ordinances and resolutions are of record in the office of the city recorder.

## CHAPTER 2

### SUPPLEMENTARY SEWER REGULATIONS

#### SECTION

- 18-201. Definitions.
- 18-202. Use of public sewers required.
- 18-203. Private sewage disposal.
- 18-204. Building sewers and connections.
- 18-205. Use of public sewers.
- 18-206. Protection from damage.
- 18-207. Powers and authority of inspectors.
- 18-208. Violations.

**18-201. Definitions.** Unless the context specifically indicates otherwise, the meaning of terms used in this chapter shall be as follows:

(1) "B.O.D." (denoting Biochemical Oxygen Demand) shall mean the quantity of oxygen utilized in the biochemical oxidation of organic matter under standard laboratory procedure in five (5) days at 20° C. expressed in milligrams per liter.

(2) "Building drain" shall mean that part of the lowest horizontal piping of a drainage system which receives the discharge from soil, waste, and other drainage pipes inside the walls 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.

(3) "Building sewer" shall mean the extension from the building drain to the public sewer or other place of disposal.

(4) "Combined sewer" shall mean a sewer receiving both surface runoff and sewage.

(5) "Garbage" shall mean solid wastes from the domestic and commercial preparation, cooking and dispensing of food, and from the handling, storage and sale of produce.

(6) "Industrial wastes" shall mean the liquid wastes from industrial manufacturing processes, trades, or businesses as distinct from sanitary sewage.

(7) "Natural outlet" shall mean any outlet into a watercourse, pond, ditch, lake, or other body of surface or groundwater.

(8) "Person" shall mean any individual, firm, company, association, society, corporation, or group.

(9) "pH" shall mean the logarithm of the reciprocal of the weight of hydrogen ions in grams per liter of solution.

(10) "Properly shredded garbage" shall mean the wastes from the preparation, cooking and dispensing of food that has been shredded to such a

degree that all particles will be carried freely under the flow conditions normally prevailing in public sewers, with no particle greater than one-half (1/2) inch (1.27 centimeters) in any dimension.

(11) "Public sewer" shall mean a sewer in which all owners of abutting properties have equal rights and which is controlled by public authority.

(12) "Sanitary sewer" shall mean a sewer which carries sewage and to which storm, surface, and groundwaters are not intentionally admitted.

(13) "Sewage" shall mean a combination of the watercarried wastes from residences, business buildings, institutions, and industrial establishments, together with such ground, surface, and storm waters as may be present.

(14) "Sewage treatment plant" shall mean any arrangement of devices and structures used for treating sewage.

(15) "Sewage works" shall mean all facilities for collecting, pumping, treating and disposing of sewage.

(16) "Sewer" shall mean a pipe or conduit for carrying sewage.

(17) "Shall" is mandatory; "May" is permissive.

(18) "Slug" shall mean any discharge of water, sewage, or industrial waste in which the 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.

(19) "Storm drain" (sometimes termed "storm sewer") shall mean a sewer which carries storm and surface waters and drainage, but excludes sewage and industrial wastes, other than unpolluted cooling water.

(20) "Superintendent" shall mean the superintendent of sewage works and/or of water pollution control of the municipality, or his authorized deputy, agent, or representative.

(21) "Suspended solids" shall mean solids that are in suspension in water, sewage, or other liquids, and which are removable by laboratory filtering.

(22) "Watercourse" shall mean a channel in which a flow of water occurs, either continuously or intermittently. (1974 Code, § 13-201)

**18-202. Use of public sewers required.** (1) It shall be unlawful for any user to place, deposit, or permit to be deposited in any unsanitary manner on public or private property within the municipality, or any area under its jurisdiction, any human or animal excrement, garbage, or other objectionable waste.

(2) It shall be unlawful to discharge to any natural outlet within the municipality, or in any area under its jurisdiction, any sewage or other polluted waters, except where suitable treatment has been provided in accordance with subsequent provisions of this chapter.

(3) Except as hereafter provided, it shall be unlawful to construct or maintain any privy, privy vault, septic tank, cesspool, or other facility intended or used for the disposal of sewage.

(4) The owner of all houses, buildings, or properties used for human occupancy, employment, recreation, or other purposes, situated within the municipality and abutting on 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 of the municipality, is hereby required at his expense to install suitable toilet facilities therein, and to connect such facilities directly with the proper public sewer in accordance with the provisions of this chapter, within ninety (90) days after date of official notice to do so, provided that said public sewer is within two hundred (200)<sup>1</sup> feet of the property line. (1974 Code, § 13-202)

**18-203. Private sewage disposal.** The disposal of sewage by means other than the use of the sanitary sewage system shall be in accordance with local and state laws. The disposal of sewage by private disposal systems shall be permissible only in those instances where service from the sanitary sewage system is not available. (1974 Code, § 13-203)

**18-204. Building sewers and connections.** (1) No unauthorized person shall uncover, make any connections with or opening into, use, alter, or disturb any public sewer or appurtenance thereof without first obtaining a written permit from the superintendent.

(2) There shall be two (2) classes of building sewer permits:

(a) For residential and commercial service, and

(b) For service to establishments producing industrial wastes.

In either case, the owner or his agent shall make application on a special form furnished by the municipality. Their permit application shall be supplemented by any plans, specifications, or other information considered pertinent in the judgment of the superintendent.

(3) All costs and expenses incidental to the installation and connection of the building sewer shall be borne by the owner. The owner shall indemnify the municipality from any loss or damage that may directly or indirectly be occasioned by the installation of the building sewer.

(4) A separate and independent building sewer shall be provided for every building; except where one building stands at the rear of another on an

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<sup>1</sup>The state health department's ordinance provides "one hundred (100) feet" but this is inconsistent with its other ordinance which is set forth in title 18, chapter 3. Therefore, this provision has been revised in this code in an attempt to reconcile the two recommended ordinances of the health department.

interior lot and no private sewer is available or can be constructed to the rear building through an adjoining alley, court, yard or driveway, the building sewer from the front building may be extended to the rear building and the whole considered as one building sewer.

(5) Old building sewers may be used in connection with new buildings only when they are found, on examination and test by the superintendent, to meet all requirements of this chapter.

(6) 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 and plumbing code or other applicable rules and regulations of the municipality. In the absence of code provisions or in amplification thereof, the materials and procedures set forth in appropriate specifications of the A.S.T.M. and W.P.C.F. Manual of Practice No. 9 shall apply.

(7) Whenever possible, the building sewer shall be brought to the building at an elevation below the basement floor. In all buildings in which any building drain is too low to permit gravity flow to public sewer, sanitary sewage carried by such building drain shall be lifted by an approved means and discharged to the building sewer.

(8) No person shall make connection of roof downspouts, exterior foundation drains, areaway drains, or other sources of surface runoff or groundwater to a building sewer or building drain which in turn is connected directly or indirectly to a public sanitary sewer.

(9) The connection of the building sewer into the public sewer shall conform to the requirements of the building and plumbing code or other applicable rules and regulations of the municipality, or the procedures set forth in appropriate specifications of the A.S.T.M. and the W.P.C.F. Manual of Practice No. 9. All such connections shall be made gastight and watertight. Any deviation from the prescribed procedures and materials must be approved by the superintendent before installation.

(10) The applicant for the building sewer permit shall notify the superintendent when the building sewer is ready for inspection and connection to the public sewer. The connection shall be made under the supervision of the superintendent or the representative.

(11) All excavations for building sewer installations shall be adequately guarded with barricades and lights so as to protect the public from hazard. Streets, sidewalks, parkways, and other public property disturbed in the course of the work shall be restored in a manner satisfactory to the municipality. (1974 Code, § 13-204)

**18-205. Use of the public sewers.** (1) No person shall discharge or cause to be discharged any stormwater, surface water, groundwater, roof runoff,

subsurface drainage, uncontaminated cooling water, or unpolluted industrial process waters to any sanitary sewer.

(2) Stormwater and all other unpolluted drainage shall be discharged to such sewers as are specifically designated as storm sewers, or to a natural outlet approved by the Tennessee Stream Pollution Control Board. Industrial cooling water or unpolluted process waters may be discharged, on approval of the Tennessee Stream Pollution Control Board, to a storm sewer or natural outlet.

(3) No person shall discharge or cause to be discharged any of the following described waters or wastes to any public sewers:

(a) Any gasoline, benzene, naphtha, fuel oil, or other flammable or explosive liquid, solid or gas.

(b) Any waters or wastes containing toxic or poisonous solids, liquids, or gases in sufficient quantity, either singly or by interaction with other wastes, to injure or interfere with any sewage treatment process, constitute a hazard to humans or animals, create a public nuisance or create any hazard in the receiving waters of the sewage treatment plant.

(c) Any waters or wastes having a pH lower than 5.5, or having any other corrosive property capable of causing damage or hazard to structures, equipment, and personnel of the sewage works.

(d) Solid or viscous substances in quantities or of such size capable of causing obstruction to the flow in sewers, or other interference with the proper operation in the sewage works such as, but not limited to, ashes, cinders, sand, mud, straw, shavings, metal, glass, rags, feathers, tar, plastics, wood, unground garbage, whole blood, paunch manure, hair and fleshings, entrails and paper dishes, cups, milk containers, etc., either whole or ground by garbage grinders.

(4) No person shall discharge or cause to be discharged the following described substances, materials, waters, or wastes if it appears likely in the opinion of the superintendent that such wastes can harm either the sewers, sewage treatment process or equipment, have an adverse effect on the receiving stream, or can otherwise endanger life, limb, public property, or constitute a nuisance. In forming his opinion as to the acceptability of these wastes, the superintendent will give consideration of such factors as the quantities of subject wastes in relation to flows and velocities in the sewers, materials of construction of the sewers, nature of the sewage treatment process, capacity of the sewage treatment plant, degree of treatability of wastes in the sewage treatment plant, and other pertinent factors. The substances prohibited are:

(a) Any liquid or vapor having a temperature higher than one hundred fifty (150)° F (65° C).

(b) Any water or waste containing fats, wax, grease, or oils, whether emulsified or not, in excess of one hundred (100) mg/l or containing substances which may solidify or become viscous at temperatures between thirty-two (32)° and one hundred fifty (150)° F (0 and 65° C).

(c) Any garbage that has not been properly shredded. The installation and operation of any garbage grinder equipped with a motor of three-fourths (3/4) horsepower (0.76 hp metric) or greater shall be subject to the review and approval of the superintendent.

(d) Any waters or wastes containing strong acid iron pickling wastes or concentrated plating solutions, whether neutralized or not.

(e) Any waters or wastes containing iron, chromium, copper, zinc, cyanide, and similar objectionable or toxic substances; of wastes exerting an excessive chlorine requirement to such degree that any such material received in the composite sewage at the sewage treatment works exceeds the limits established by the superintendent and/or the Division of Sanitary Engineering, Tennessee Department of Health, for such materials.

(f) Any waters or wastes containing phenols or other taste- or odor-producing substances, in such concentrations exceeding limits which may be established by the superintendent as necessary, after treatment of the composite sewage, to meet the requirements of the state, federal, or other public agencies of jurisdiction for such discharge to the receiving waters.

(g) Any radioactive wastes or isotopes of such half-life or concentration as may exceed limits established by the superintendent in compliance with applicable state or federal regulations.

(h) Any waters or wastes having a pH in excess of 9.5.

(i) Materials which exert or cause:

(i) Unusual concentrations of inert suspended solids (such as, but not limited to, Fullers earth, lime slurries, and lime residues) or of dissolved solids (such as, but not limited to, sodium chloride and sodium sulfate).

(ii) Excessive discoloration (such as, but not limited to, dye wastes and vegetable tanning solutions).

(iii) Unusual BOD (above 300 mg/l), chemical oxygen demand, or chlorine requirement in such quantities as to constitute a significant load on the sewage treatment works.

(iv) Unusual volume of flow or concentration of wastes constituting "slugs" as defined herein.

(j) Waters or wastes containing substances which are not amenable to treatment or reduction by the sewage treatment processes

employed, or are amenable to treatment only to such degree that the sewage treatment plant effluent cannot meet the requirements of other agencies having jurisdiction over discharge to the receiving waters.

(k) Waters or wastes containing suspended solids in excess of 300 mg/l.

(5) If any waters or wastes are discharged, or are proposed to be discharged to the public sewers, which waters contain the substances or possess the characteristics enumerated in subsection (4) of this section, and which in the judgment of the superintendent, and/or the Division of Sanitary Engineering, Tennessee Department of Health, may have a deleterious effect upon the sewage works, processes, equipment, or receiving waters, or which otherwise create a hazard to life or constitute a public nuisance, the superintendent may:

(a) Reject the wastes,

(b) Require pretreatment to an acceptable condition for discharge to the public sewers,

(c) Require control over the quantities and rates of discharge, and/or

(d) Require payment to cover the added cost of handling and treating the wastes not covered by existing taxes or sewer charges under the provisions of subsection (10) of this section.

If the superintendent permits the pretreatment or equalization of waste flows, the design and installation of the plants and equipment shall be subject to the review and approval of the superintendent, and the Tennessee Department of Health, and subject to the requirements of all applicable codes, ordinances, and laws.

(6) Grease, oil, and sand interceptors shall be provided when, in the opinion of the superintendent, they are necessary for the proper handling of liquid wastes containing grease in excessive amounts, or any flammable wastes, sand, or other harmful ingredients; except that such interceptors shall not be required for private living quarters or dwelling units. All interceptors shall be of a type and capacity approved by the superintendent, and shall be so located as to be readily and easily accessible for cleaning and inspection.

(7) Where preliminary treatment or flow-equalizing facilities are provided for any waters or wastes, they shall be maintained continuously in satisfactory and effective operation by the owner at his expense.

(8) When required by the superintendent, the owner of any property serviced by a building sewer carrying industrial wastes shall install a suitable control manhole together with such meters, and other appurtenances in the building sewer to facilitate observation, sampling, and measurement of the wastes. Such manhole, when required, shall be accessibly and safely located and shall be constructed in accordance with plans approved by the

superintendent. The manhole shall be installed by the owner at his expense and shall be maintained by him so as to be safe and accessible at all times.

(9) All measurements, tests, and analyses of the characteristics of waters and wastes to which reference is made in this chapter shall be determined in accordance with the latest edition of "Standard Methods for the Examination of Water and Wastewater," published by the American Public Health Association and shall be determined at the control manhole provided, or upon suitable samples taken at said control manhole. In the event that no special manhole has been required, the control manhole shall be considered to be the nearest downstream manhole in the public sewer to the point at which the building sewer is connected. Sampling shall be carried out by customarily accepted methods to reflect the effect of constituents upon the sewage works and to determine the existence of hazards of life, limb and property. (The particular analyses involved will determine whether a twenty-four (24) hour composite of all outfalls of a premise is appropriate or whether a grab sample or samples should be taken. Normally but not always, BOD and suspended solids analyses are obtained from 24-hr. composites of all outfalls whereas pH's are determined from periodic grab samples.)

(10) No statement contained in this chapter shall be construed as preventing any special agreement or arrangement between the municipality and any industrial concern whereby an industrial waste of unusual strength or character may be accepted by the municipality for treatment, subject to payment therefor, by the industrial concern. (1974 Code, § 13-205)

**18-206. Protection from damage.** No unauthorized person shall maliciously, wilfully, or negligently break, damage, destroy, uncover, deface, or tamper with any structure, appurtenance, or equipment which is a part of the sewage works. Any person violating this provision shall be subject to immediate arrest under charge of disorderly conduct. (1974 Code, § 13-206)

**18-207. Powers and authority of inspectors.** (1) The superintendent and other duly authorized employees of the municipality bearing proper credentials and identification shall be permitted to enter all properties for the purposes of inspection, observation, measurement, sampling and testing in accordance with the provisions of this chapter. The superintendent or his 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.

(2) While performing the necessary work on private properties referred to in subsection (1) of this section, the superintendent or duly authorized employees of the municipality shall observe all safety rules applicable to the

premises established by the company and the company shall be held harmless for injury or death to the municipal employees and the municipality shall indemnify the company against loss or damage to its property by municipal employees and against liability claims and demands for personal injury or property damage asserted against the company and growing out of the gauging and sampling operation, except as such may be caused by negligence or failure of the company to maintain safe conditions as required in § 18-205(8).

(3) The superintendent and other duly authorized employees of the municipality bearing proper credentials and identification shall be permitted to enter all private properties through which the municipality 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 the terms of the duly negotiated easement pertaining to the private property involved. (1974 Code, § 13-207)

**18-208. Violations.** (1) Any person found to be violating any provision of this chapter except § 18-206 shall be served by the municipality 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) Any person who shall continue any violation beyond the time limit provided for in subsection (1) of this section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and on conviction thereof shall be fined under the general penalty clause for this municipal code of ordinances.

(3) Any person violating any of the provisions of this chapter shall become liable to the municipality for any expense, loss, or damage occasioned the municipality by reason of such violation. (1974 Code, § 13-208)

## CHAPTER 3

### SEWAGE AND HUMAN EXCRETA DISPOSAL<sup>1</sup>

#### SECTION

- 18-301. Definitions.
- 18-302. Places required to have sanitary disposal methods.
- 18-303. When a connection to the public sewer is required.
- 18-304. When a septic tank shall be used.
- 18-305. Registration and records of septic tank cleaners, etc.
- 18-306. Use of pit privy or other method of disposal.
- 18-307. Approval and permit required for septic tanks, privies, etc.
- 18-308. Owner to provide disposal facilities.
- 18-309. Occupant to maintain disposal facilities.
- 18-310. Only specified methods of disposal to be used.
- 18-311. Discharge into watercourses restricted.
- 18-312. Pollution of ground water prohibited.
- 18-313. Enforcement of chapter.
- 18-314. Carnivals, circuses, etc.
- 18-315. Violations.

**18-301. Definitions.** The following definitions shall apply in the interpretation of this chapter:

(1) "Accessible sewer." A public sanitary sewer located in a street or alley abutting on the property in question or otherwise within two hundred (200) feet of any boundary of said property measured along the shortest available right-of-way.

(2) "Health officer." The person duly appointed to such position having jurisdiction, or any person or persons authorized to act as his agent.

(3) "Human excreta." The bowel and kidney discharges of human beings.

(4) "Sewage." All water-carried human and household wastes from residences, buildings, or industrial establishments.

(5) "Approved septic tank system." A watertight covered receptacle of monolithic concrete, either precast or cast in place, constructed according to plans approved by the health officer. Such tanks shall have a capacity of not less than 750 gallons and in the case of homes with more than two (2) bedrooms the capacity of the tank shall be in accordance with the recommendations of the

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<sup>1</sup>Municipal code reference

Plumbing code: title 12, chapter 2.

Tennessee Department of Health as provided for in its 1967 bulletin entitled "Recommended Guide for Location, Design, and Construction of Septic Tanks and Disposal Fields." A minimum liquid depth of four (4) feet should be provided with a minimum depth of air space above the liquid of one (1) foot. The septic tank dimensions should be such that the length from inlet to outlet is at least twice but not more than three (3) times the width. The liquid depth should not exceed five (5) feet. The discharge from the septic tank shall be disposed of in such a manner that it may not create a nuisance on the surface of the ground or pollute the underground water supply, and such disposal shall be in accordance with recommendations of the health officer as determined by acceptable soil percolation data.

(6) "Sanitary pit privy." A privy having a fly-tight floor and seat over an excavation in earth, located and constructed in such a manner that flies and animals will be excluded, surface water may not enter the pit, and danger of pollution of the surface of the ground or the underground water supply will be prevented.

(7) "Other approved method of sewage disposal." Any privy, chemical toilet, or other toilet device (other than a sanitary sewer, septic tank, or sanitary pit privy as described above) the type, location, and construction of which have been approved by the health officer.

(8) "Watercourse." Any natural or artificial drain which conveys water either continuously or intermittently. (1974 Code, § 8-301)

**18-302. Places required to have sanitary disposal methods.** Every residence, building, or place where human beings reside, assemble, or are employed within the corporate limits shall be required to have a sanitary method for disposal of sewage and human excreta. (1974 Code, § 8-302)

**18-303. When a connection to the public sewer is required.** Wherever an accessible sewer exists and water under pressure is available, approved plumbing facilities shall be provided and the wastes from such facilities shall be discharged through a connection to said sewer made in compliance with the requirements of the official responsible for the public sewerage system. On any lot or premise accessible to the sewer no other method of sewage disposal shall be employed. (1974 Code, § 8-303)

**18-304. When a septic tank shall be used.** Wherever water carried sewage facilities are installed and their use is permitted by the health officer, and an accessible sewer does not exist, the wastes from such facilities shall be discharged into an approved septic tank system.

No septic tank or other water-carried sewage disposal system except a connection to a public sewer shall be installed without the approval of the

health officer or his duly appointed representative. The design, layout, and construction of such systems shall be in accordance with specifications approved by the health officer and the installation shall be under the general supervision of the department of health. (1974 Code, § 8-304)

**18-305. Registration and records of septic tank cleaners, etc.** Every person, firm, or corporation who operates equipment for the purpose of removing digested sludge from septic tanks, cesspools, privies, and other sewage disposal installations on private or public property must register with the health officer and furnish such records of work done within the corporate limits as may be deemed necessary by the health officer. (1974 Code, § 8-305)

**18-306. Use of pit privy or other method of disposal.** Wherever a sanitary method of human excreta disposal is required under § 18-302 and water-carried sewage facilities are not used, a sanitary pit privy or other approved method of disposal shall be provided. (1974 Code, § 8-306)

**18-307. Approval and permit required for septic tanks, privies, etc.** Any person, firm, or corporation proposing to construct a septic tank system, privy, or other sewage disposal facility, requiring the approval of the health officer under this chapter, shall before the initiation of construction obtain the approval of the health officer for the design and location of the system and secure a permit from the health officer for such system. (1974 Code, § 8-307)

**18-308. Owner to provide disposal facilities.** It shall be the duty of the owner of any property upon which facilities for sanitary sewage or human excreta disposal are required by § 18-302, or the agent of the owner to provide such facilities. (1974 Code, § 8-308)

**18-309. Occupant to maintain disposal facilities.** It shall be the duty of the occupant, tenant, lessee, or other person in charge to maintain the facilities for sewage disposal in a clean and sanitary condition at all times and no refuse or other material which may unduly fill up, clog, or otherwise interfere with the operation of such facilities shall be deposited therein. (1974 Code, § 8-309)

**18-310. Only specified methods of disposal to be used.** No sewage or human excreta shall be thrown out, deposited, buried, or otherwise disposed of, except by a sanitary method of disposal as specified in this chapter. (1974 Code, § 8-310)

**18-311. Discharge into watercourses restricted.** No sewage or excreta shall be discharged or deposited into any lake or watercourse except under conditions specified by the health officer and specifically authorized by the Tennessee Stream Pollution Control Board. (1974 Code, § 8-311)

**18-312. Pollution of ground water prohibited.** No sewage, effluent from a septic tank, sewage treatment plant, or discharges from any plumbing facility shall empty into any well, either abandoned or constructed for this purpose, cistern, sinkhole, crevice, ditch, or other opening either natural or artificial in any formation which may permit the pollution of ground water. (1974 Code, § 8-312)

**18-313. Enforcement of chapter.** It shall be the duty of the health officer to make an inspection of the methods of disposal of sewage and human excreta as often as is considered necessary to insure full compliance with the terms of this chapter. Written notification of any violation shall be given by the health officer to the person or persons responsible for the correction of the condition, and correction shall be made within thirty (30) days after notification. If the health officer shall advise any person that the method by which human excreta and sewage is being disposed of constitutes an immediate and serious menace to health, such person shall at once take steps to remove the menace. Failure to remove such menace immediately shall be punishable under the general penalty clause for this code. However, such person shall be allowed the number of days herein provided within which to make permanent correction. (Ord. #313A, July 1990)

**18-314. Carnivals, circuses, etc.** Whenever carnivals, circuses, or other transient groups of persons come within the corporate limits such groups of transients shall provide a sanitary method for disposal of sewage and human excreta. Failure of a carnival, circus, or other transient group to provide such sanitary method of disposal and to make all reasonable changes and corrections proposed by the health officer shall constitute a violation of this section. In these cases the violator shall not be entitled to the notice of thirty (30) days provided for in the preceding section. (Ord. #313A, July 1990)

**18-315. Violations.** Any person, persons, firm, association, or corporation or agent thereof, who shall fail, neglect, or refuse to comply with the provisions of this chapter shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be punishable under the general penalty clause for this code. (1974 Code, § 8-315)

## CHAPTER 4

### CROSS CONNECTIONS, AUXILIARY INTAKES, ETC.<sup>1</sup>

#### SECTION

- 18-401. Definitions.
- 18-402. Regulated.
- 18-403. Statement required.
- 18-404. Violations.

**18-401. Definitions.** The following definitions and terms shall apply in the interpretation and enforcement of this chapter:

(1) "Public water supply." The waterworks system furnishing water to the municipality for general use and which supply is recognized as the public water supply by the Tennessee Department of Health.

(2) "Cross connection." Any physical connection whereby the public water supply is connected with any other water supply system, whether public or private, either inside or outside of any building or buildings, in such manner that a flow of water into the public water supply is possible either through the manipulation of valves or because of ineffective check or back-pressure valves, or because of any other arrangement.

(3) "Auxiliary intake." Any piping connection or other device whereby water may be secured from a source other than that normally used.

(4) "Bypass." Any system of piping or other arrangement whereby the water may be diverted around any part or portion of a water purification plant.

(5) "Interconnection." Any system of piping or other arrangement whereby the public water supply is connected directly with a sewer, drain, conduit, pool, storage reservoir, or other device which normally contains sewage or other waste or liquid which would be capable of imparting contamination to the public water supply.

(6) "Person." Any and all persons, natural or artificial, including any individual, firm, or association, and any municipal or private corporation organized or existing under the laws of this or any other state or country. (1974 Code, § 8-401)

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<sup>1</sup>Municipal code references

Plumbing code: title 12.

Water and sewer system administration: title 18.

Wastewater treatment: title 18.

**18-402. Regulated.** It shall be unlawful for any person to cause a cross connection, auxiliary intake, bypass, or interconnection to be made, or allow one to exist for any purpose whatsoever, unless the construction and operation of same have been approved by the Tennessee Department of Health and the operation of such cross connection, auxiliary intake, bypass or interconnection is at all times under the direct supervision of the superintendent of the waterworks of this municipality. (1974 Code, § 8-402)

**18-403. Statement required.** Any person whose premises are supplied with water from the public water supply and who also has on the same premises a separate source of water supply, or stores water in an uncovered or insanitary storage reservoir from which the water stored therein is circulated through a piping system, shall file with the superintendent of the waterworks a statement of the non-existence of unapproved or unauthorized cross connections, auxiliary intakes, bypasses, or interconnections. Such statement shall also contain an agreement that no cross connection, auxiliary intake, bypass, or interconnection will be permitted upon the premises until the construction and operation of same have received the approval of the Tennessee Department of Health, and the operation and maintenance of same have been placed under the direct supervision of the superintendent of the waterworks. (1974 Code, § 8-403)

**18-404. Violations.** Any person who now has cross connections, auxiliary intakes, bypasses, or interconnections in violation of the provisions of this chapter shall be allowed a reasonable time within which to comply with such provisions. After a thorough investigation of existing conditions and an appraisal for the time required to complete the work, the amount of time to be allowed shall be designated by the superintendent of the waterworks. In addition to, or in lieu of any fines and penalties that may be judicially assessed for violations of this chapter, the superintendent of the waterworks shall discontinue the public water supply service at any premises upon which there is found to be a cross connection, auxiliary intake, bypass, or interconnection, and service shall not be restored until such cross connection, auxiliary intake, bypass, or interconnection has been discontinued. (1974 Code, § 8-404)