

CHAPTER 52: GENERAL WATER AND SEWER PROVISIONS

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§ 52.01 DEFINITIONS.

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For the purpose of this chapter, the following definitions shall apply unless the context clearly indicates or requires a different meaning.

INDUSTRIAL WASTE. Any liquid, gaseous or solid waste substance resulting from any process of industry, manufacturing, trade or business, or from development of any natural resource.

POTABLE WATER. As defined in most current Minnesota Plumbing Code.

POTABLE WATER SOURCES. Flows from drinking water distribution systems, including flows from system failures, pressure releases, system maintenance, well development, testing, fire hydrant flow testing and flushing, and dewatering of pipes, reservoirs, vaults, and wells.

SEWAGE.

(1) Water-carried waste products from residences, public buildings, institutions or other buildings or premises; and

(2) The excrement or other discharge from the bodies of human beings or animals, together with the ground water infiltration and surface water as may be present.

SEWERAGE SERVICE. The use of and benefit from the sewerage system, including the collection, transportation, pumping, treatment and final disposal of sewage.

SEWERAGE SYSTEM.

(1) All street lateral, main and intersecting sewers and structures by which sewage or industrial wastes are collected, transported, treated and disposed of.

(2) This shall not include plumbing inside or a part of a building or premises served, or service sewers from a building to the street lateral.

('86 Code, § 3.20)

§ 52.02 CONNECTIONS REQUIRED; PROHIBITIONS.

(A) The kind and size of all installations and connections with mains shall be specified by the city.

(B) (1) It is unlawful for any person, not expressly authorized by the city, to tap a water distribution main or sewerage collection main.

(2) It is unlawful for any person, other than members of the Fire Department or another person duly authorized by the city, in pursuance of lawful purpose, to open any fire hydrant or attempt to draw water from the same or in any manner interfere therewith. It is also unlawful for any person so authorized to deliver or suffer to be delivered to any other person any hydrant key or wrench, except for the purposes strictly pertaining to their lawful use.

(3) No sewerage (including industrial wastes) shall contain any substance which is deemed by the city to be deleterious to the operation of the sewerage system. If any person discharges any deleterious substances therein, he or she shall be required to discontinue the discharge of the substances into the sewerage system. It is unlawful for any person to, after ten days written notice from the city, continue discharging the deleterious substance into the sewerage system.

(4) (a) It is unlawful for any person to make or maintain a connection, between eave troughs, rain spouts, footing drains or any other conductor used to carry natural precipitation or ground water, and the sewerage system or any part thereof.

(b) Minimum installation requirements for sump pumps in any newly constructed housing or where new footing drains are added to existing housing, or if repair or maintenance is done to an existing system.

1. A new sump pump shall be installed with a minimum size of one and one-half inch of rigid pipe leading out of sump pit to a one and one-fourth inch rubber splice (the splice is necessary for easy removal of pump for repairs). After the rubber splice, a check valve must be installed to eliminate any back flow when pump stops or when pump is removed from pit.

2. The sump pump outflow shall be piped, using a minimum of one and one-fourth inch rigid pipe, underground to either the yard or city storm sewer if available. In no case should pipe cross property lines or be connected to an unauthorized storm water drainage system.

3. A tee with a temporary cap fitting shall be placed immediately outside the housing wall before pipe goes down to below ground level.

(5) It is unlawful for any person to construct, alter or extend any drain or sewer connected or proposed to be connected to the sewerage system, without first having the plans and specifications therefor approved by the city.

(6) It is unlawful to connect a steam exhaust or blow-off with a drain which also connects with the sewerage system.

(7) It is unlawful to connect a drain from a laundry, hotel, restaurant or other public cooking establishment, with the sewerage system, without a grease trap or grated basin.

(8) It is unlawful to drain waste from dyeing clothes, cleaning or other establishments using naphtha, gasoline or other inflammable liquids into the sewerage system. It is unlawful to connect a drain from a butcher shop, rendering establishment, packing house, creamery or other establishment with the sewerage system, without intercepting it with some form of catch-basin or grated basin.

(9) It is unlawful to connect an automobile or other similar wash-rack drain with the sewerage system without providing for a catch-basin approved by the city to prevent entrance of dirt and refuse from the wash-rack.

(10) It is unlawful for any owner, tenant, agent, occupant or other person having charge of any premises to maintain thereon any drain or sewer connected with the sewerage system in a clogged, obstructed, broken or damaged condition.

(11) It is unlawful for any person to discharge or cause or permit to be discharged any sewage or unwholesome matter into any lake or public waters.
('86 Code, § 3.21)

(12) It is unlawful to construct or maintain a cross connection to the city potable water system, as defined by the ICBI (International Building Code) standards.

(13) All unlawful acts, as defined by IBC (International Building Code) are hereby unlawful.

Penalty, see § 10.99

§ 52.03 WATER AND SEWAGE SOURCES OTHER THAN CITY.

(A) (1) If any customer who discharges sewage or industrial waste into the sewerage system, either directly or indirectly, obtains part of all of the water used therein from sources other than the city and the water so obtained is not measured by a meter in a manner which is acceptable to the city, then in such case, the city shall permit the discharge of sewage or industrial waste into its sewerage system only when the customer shall, at his or her own expense, install and maintain a water meter or sewer meter which shall be satisfactory to the city.

(2) The meters shall be installed so as to measure all water received on the premises of the customer and the charges and rates shall be applied to the quantity of water received, as measured by the meters.

(3) However, if it shall be deemed impracticable by the city to measure the water used by the customer, a flat charge may be made in accordance with the estimated use of the water.

(B) The Council may make contracts with responsible persons for the disposal of sewage from premises located outside the city. The contracts shall provide for charges and rates and minimum charges and rates as shall be determined and set by the Council, but in no event shall the Council establish a minimum charge or rate for the sewer service at less than twice the charge and rate for similar classification of service provided within the city.

('86 Code, § 3.21)

(C) In the event an owner shall fail to connect to a public water and sewer in compliance with a notice given, the city must undertake to have the connection made and shall assess the cost thereof against the benefitted property. The assessment, when levied, shall bear interest at the rate determined by the City Council and shall be certified to the County Auditor and shall be collected and remitted to the city in the same manner as assessments for local improvements. The rights of the city shall be in addition to any remedial or enforcement provisions hereof.

('86 Code, § 3.41)

§ 52.04 WATER EXCLUDED FROM SEWAGE SYSTEM.

(A) If a customer discharges sewage or industrial waste into the sewerage system, either directly or indirectly, and the amount of water is such that the rate of charge will be in excess of the minimum bill therefor, and if it can be shown to the satisfaction of the Director of Engineering that a portion of the water measured by the water meter or meters does not and cannot enter the sewerage system, then, in that event, the Director of Engineering is hereby authorized to investigate and determine, in the manner and by the method as he or she may deem practicable, the percentage of the water measured by the meter which enters the sewerage system.

(B) In such case the charges and rates shall be based upon the percentage of the metered water so determined by the Director of Engineering. In the alternative, in any case, the Director of Engineering is authorized to require, as a condition, or to permit the installation of other or

additional meters in a manner that the quantity of water which actually enters the sewerage system may be determined. In that case, the charges or rates shall be based upon the amount of water shown actually to enter the sewerage system.

('86 Code, § 3.21)

(C) When the sewer and water system of the city is made available to a property, as determined by city acceptance of the improvements, the owner shall connect to the sewer and water system within 365 days. Any septic tanks, cesspools and similar private wastewater disposal systems shall be cleaned of sludge, and the bottom shall be broken to permit drainage and the tank or pit filled with suitable material as approved by the city. Wells shall be physically disconnected from the plumbing of any structures to eliminate any potential cross-connections to the city potable water system. In addition, no water shall be discharged to the city sewerage system from wells.

(D) In the event an owner shall fail to connect to a public water and sewer in compliance with a notice given, the city must undertake to have the connection made and shall assess the cost thereof against the benefitted property. The assessment, when levied, shall bear interest at the rate determined by the City Council and shall be certified to the County Auditor and shall be collected and remitted to the city in the same manner as assessments for local improvements. The rights of the city shall be in addition to any remedial or enforcement provisions hereof.

('86 Code, § 3.41)

§ 52.05 SEWERAGE CHARGES A LIEN.

(A) (1) In the event premises being served by the sewerage system are occupied by a person other than the owner thereof, statements for sewer and water service charges shall be rendered to the person at the usual times and in the usual manner.

(2) If any sewer or water service charge bill remains unpaid for a period of more than 30 days, then statement of the delinquent and unpaid sewer service charge shall be served by mail or personally upon the owner of the premises served by the system.

(B) Each water and sewerage service charge levied by and pursuant to this chapter is hereby a lien upon the premises served by a connection to the sewerage system of the city and located within the city; and all charges which are on September 30 of each year more than 30 days past due, and having been properly billed to the occupant and owner of the premises served, shall be certified by the Finance Department to the County Auditor between the first and tenth day of October of each year, and the Finance Department in so certifying the charges to the County Auditor shall specify the amount thereof, the description of the premises served, the name of the owner thereof; and the amount so certified shall be extended by the County Auditor on the tax rolls against the premises in the same manner as other taxes, and collected by the County Treasurer, and paid to the city along with other taxes.

('86 Code, § 3.21)

§ 52.06 INSPECTIONS.

An approved permit must first be obtained by every person who is constructing or altering any sewer or drain connected or proposed to be connected with the sewerage system when the work is ready for inspection and before rendering the inspection impossible by covering the work.

('86 Code, § 3.21)