

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 Public Works Director in accordance with the following:

1. Application. Any person desiring to make a connection with the sewer system shall first file with the Public Works Director 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 Public Works Director.
3. Classes of Permits. There are two (2) classes of building sewer permits.
  - A. For residential service.
  - B. For commercial service and service to establishments producing industrial wastes.
4. Permit Fee. The person who makes the application shall pay the following fee to the Clerk to cover the cost of issuing the permit and supervising, regulating, and inspecting the work:
  - A. Residential - not less than forty-two dollars and seventy-six cents (\$42.76)
  - B. Commercial and Industrial - not less than eighty-five dollars and fifty-two cents (\$85.52)

(rates updated 9/26/06 to reflect current charges)

The foregoing sewer permit fees shall be increased five percent (5%) each July 1 unless such increase is waived or modified by resolution of the Council prior to the effective date of the increase.

5. Limited Responsibility for Permit Revocation. All permits to connect with sewer 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.

96.02 PLUMBER REQUIRED. Any connection to a public sewer shall be made by a plumber. The plumber shall provide a surety bond in the minimum sum of two thousand dollars (\$2,000.00) 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.

96.03 EXCAVATIONS. All excavations 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 A.S.T.M. Specification C-12, except that no backfill shall be placed until the work has been inspected. The excavations shall be made in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 135 where applicable.

96.04 CONNECTION REQUIREMENTS. Any connection with a public sanitary sewer must be made under the direct supervision of the Superintendent 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 Public Works Director, 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. In such cases the building sewer from the front building may be extended to the rear building and the whole considered as one building sewer.
3. Installation. The connection of the building sewer into the public sewer shall conform to the requirements of Division 4, Plumbing Rules and Regulations, of the State Building Code, applicable rules and regulations of the City, or the procedures set forth in A.S.T.M. Specification C-12. All such connections shall be made gastight and watertight. Any deviation from the prescribed procedures and materials must be approved by the Public Works Director before installation.

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. Size. Building sewers shall be sized for the peak expected sewage flow from the building with a minimum building sewer size of four (4) inches.
6. Alignment and Grade. All building sewers shall be laid to a straight line and at a uniform grade of not less than the following:
  - A. Four (4) inch lines: one-fourth (1/4) inch per foot.
  - B. Six (6) inch lines: one-eighth (1/8) inch per foot.
  - C. Minimum velocity: 2.50 feet per second with the sewer half full.
  - D. Deviations: any deviation in alignment or grade shall be made only with the written approval of the Superintendent and shall be made only with properly curved pipe and fittings.
7. 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.
8. 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.
9. Pipe Specifications. Building sewer pipe shall be free from flaws, splits, or breaks. Materials shall be as specified in Division 4 of the State Building Code or the City plumbing code except that the building sewer pipe, from the property line to the public sewer, shall comply with the current edition of one of the following:
  - A. Clay sewer pipe - A.S.T.M. C-700 (extra strength).
  - B. Extra heavy cast iron soil pipe - A.S.T.M. A-74.
  - C. Cast and ductile iron water pipe - A.S.T.M. A-377.
  - D. P.V.C. - DWV - A.S.T.M. D-2665.
10. Bearing Walls. No building sewer shall be laid parallel to, or within three (3) feet of any bearing wall, which might thereby be weakened.
11. Jointing. Fittings, type of joint, and jointing material shall be commensurate with the type of pipe used, subject to the approval of the Public Works Director.

12. Unstable Soil. No sewer connection shall be laid so that it is exposed when crossing any watercourse. Where an old watercourse must of necessity be crossed or where there is any danger of undermining or settlement, cast iron soil pipe or vitrified clay sewer pipe thoroughly encased in concrete shall be required for such crossings. Such encasement shall extend at least six (6) inches on all sides of the pipe. The cast iron pipe or encased clay pipe shall rest on firm, solid material at either end.

13. 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 by the Superintendent. 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 filling stations, automobile wash racks, garages, and other facilities, when, in the opinion of the Public Works Director, 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 Division 4 of the State Building Code, to be approved by the Public Works Director, 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 "Y" saddle shall be installed at the location specified by the Public works Director. 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 Public Works Director and in accordance with the Public Works Director's direction if such connection is approved.

96.07 CONNECTION DEADLINE. All approved connection permits shall require the owner to complete construction and connection of the building sewer to the public sewer within thirty (30) days from the approval of the permit, except that when, in the judgment of the Public works Director, a property owner on application has made sufficient showing that due to conditions beyond the owner's control or peculiar hardship, the period of time set forth for the completion of the connection shall be inequitable or unfair, an extension of time within which to comply with the provisions herewith may be granted.

96.08 INSPECTION REQUIRED. All connections with the sanitary sewer system before being covered shall be inspected and approved, in writing, by the Public Works Director. As soon as all pipe work from the public sewer to inside the building has been completed, and before any backfilling is done, the Public works Director shall be notified and the Public Works Director 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 Public Works Director refuses to approve the work, the plumber or owner must proceed immediately to correct the work.

96.09 PROPERTY OWNER'S RESPONSIBILITY. All costs and expense incident to the installation, connection and maintenance of the building sewer to the public sewer 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 and operation of the building sewer.

96.10 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 Council of such violation. If not made within such time the Council 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 ])

