

Chapter 54: Sewers

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General Provisions

§54.01 Definitions

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

Biological Oxygen Demand - The quantity of oxygen utilized in the biochemical oxidation of organic matter under standard laboratory procedure in five days at 20°C, expressed in parts per million by weight.

Building Or House Drain - That part of the lowest horizontal piping of a house or building drainage system which receives the discharge from soil, waste, or other drainage pipes inside the walls of any building or house.

Building Or House Sewer - That part of a house or building drainage system extending from the house or building drain to its connection with the main sewer.

Garbage - Solid wastes from the preparation of cooking and dispensing of food and produce.

Local Ventilating Pipe - Any pipe through which foul air is removed from a room or fixture.

pH - The logarithm of the reciprocal of the weight of hydrogen ions in grams per liter of solution.

Plumbing Fixtures - Receptacles intended to receive and discharge water liquid or water-carried wastes into the sewer system with which they are connected.

Properly Shredded - Shredding to such a degree that all particles will be carried freely under the flow conditions normally prevailing in public sewers with no particle larger than one-half inch in diameter.

Sanitary Sewer - A sewer which carries sewage and to which storm, surface, and ground waters are not intentionally admitted.

Sewage - A combination of the water-carried wastes from residences, business buildings, institutions, and industrial establishments together with such ground, surface, and storm waters as may be present.

Sewer System - All facilities for collecting, pumping, treating, and disposing of sewage.

Soil Pipe - Any pipe which conveys the discharge of water closets with or without the discharge from other fixtures to the house or building drain.

Storm Sewer - A sewer which carries storm and surface drainage, but excludes sewage and polluted industrial wastes.

Suspended Solids - Solids that either float on the surface of, or are in immersion in water, sewage, or other liquids, and are removable by filtering.

Trap - A fitting or device so constructed as to prevent the passage of air or gas through a pipe without materially affecting the flow of sewage or waste through it.

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Trap Seal - The vertical distance between the crown weir and the dip of the trap.

Vent Pipe - Any pipe provided to ventilate a house or building drainage system and to prevent trap siphonage and back pressure.

Waste Pipe - Any pipe which receives the discharge of any fixture, except water closets, and conveys the same to the house drain, soil pipe, or waste stack.

('72 Code, § 3-802)

§54.02 Ownership

The Board of Public Works or its designated agent shall have the direct management and control of the City Sewer Department and shall faithfully carry out the duties of the office. *(Ord. 1687, passed 8-12-99; Am. Ord. 1815, passed 10-24-02)*

§54.03 Operation and Funding

The city owns and operates the city sewer system through the Board of Public Works. The Board of Public Works or its designated agent shall have the direct management and control of the Sewer Department, shall faithfully carry out the duties of the office, and shall have the authority to adopt rules and regulations for the sanitary and efficient management of the Department.

(Neb. RS 17-149, 17-925.01) ('72 Code, § 3-803) (Am. Ord. 1493, passed 4-13-95; Am. Ord. 1650, passed 7-23-98; Am. Ord. 1815, passed 10-24-02)

§54.04 Installation Procedure

In making excavations in streets, alleys, or sidewalks for the purpose of installing pipe or making repairs, the paving, stones, and earth must be removed and deposited in a manner that will occasion the least inconvenience to the public and provide for adequate drainage. No person shall leave an excavation made in the street, alley, or sidewalk open at any time without a barricade, and during the night, warning lights. After the house sewer is laid, the public ways and property shall be restored to good condition. If the excavation in the public ways and property is left open or unfinished for a period of 24 hours or more, the Board of Public Works or its designated agent shall have the duty to finish or correct the work, and all expenses so incurred shall be charged to the owner, occupant, or lessee of the property. All installations or repairs of pipes require two inspections by the Board of Public Works or its designated agent. The first inspection shall be made when connections or repairs are complete and before the pipes are covered. The second inspection shall be made after the dirt work is completed and the service restored. It is the customer's responsibility to notify the Board of Public Works or

its designated agent at the time the work is ready for each inspection. All installation shall be done under the supervision and strictly in accordance with the rules, regulations, and specifications for such installation prescribed by the Board of Public Works or its designated agent; provided, that the said rules, regulations, and specifications have been reviewed and approved by the Board of Public Works.

The cost of concrete removal and replacement is not included in the Tap or Impact Fees. Any concrete expense is the customer's expense. (*Neb. RS 18-503*) ('72 Code, § 3-808) (*Am. Ord. 1493, passed 4-13-95; Am. Ord. 1815, passed 10-24-02*)

§54.05 Inspections

The Utility General Manager or their authorized agents, shall have free access between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. to all parts of each premises and building which is connected with the sewer system to ascertain whether there is any disrepair or violations of this chapter therein. (*'72 Code, § 3-820*)

Regulations; Requirements

§54.25 Connections

It shall be unlawful for any person, firm, or corporation to engage in or conduct the business of sewer connection and house drainage, excavate any trenches for sewer pipe, open, uncover, or in any manner make connection with or lay any sewer drain, or attach to, modify, or repair any appurtenances thereto without holding a city plumber's license and without complying with the rules and regulations of the city of Wahoo and the Board of Public Works; provided, that nothing herein shall be construed to apply to persons, firms, or corporations under special contract with the city for the construction, extension, or repair of the city sewer system. (*'72 Code, § 3-807*) *Penalty, see § 10.99*

§54.26 Mandatory Hook-Up

Upon written notice by the Board of Public Works or its designated agent the property owner, occupant, or lessee of any premises within 300 feet of any sewer main shall without delay cause the said building to be connected with the sewer system and equipped with inside sewerage facilities. Every building hereafter erected shall be connected with the sewer system at the time of its construction. In the event that any property owner, occupant, or lessee shall neglect, fail, or refuse, within a period of ten days after notice has been given to him or her to do so by registered mail or by publication in a newspaper in or of general circulation in the

city, to make such connection, the Board of Public Works shall have the power to cause the same to be done, to assess the cost thereof against the property, and to collect the assessment thus made in the manner provided for collection of other special taxes and assessments.

*('72 Code, § 3-805) (Am. Ord. 1493, passed 4-13-95; Am. Ord. 1815, passed 10-24-02)
Penalty, see § 10.99*

Statutory reference: *Similar provisions, see Neb. RS 17-149, 17-149.01*

§54.27 Cesspools, Septic Tanks

Cesspools or septic tanks for the reception of sewage or waste from a drain from any building shall only be permitted or allowed when the sewerage system is not available to the premises on which the cesspool or septic tank is located. The sewerage system shall be considered available for the purposes of this section when the system is within 300 feet of the premises on which the privy, cesspool, or septic tank is located. Cesspools and septic tanks when permitted or allowed, and all plumbing connected therewith, shall be constructed and installed by licensed plumbers subject to the same regulations applicable to connections with the city sewerage system. All cesspools and septic tanks, now existing or hereafter built, shall be constructed and installed, or repaired or rebuilt, according to plans and specifications prepared by the Plumbing Inspector and approved by the Board of Public Works. No new cesspool or septic tank shall hereafter be constructed and installed except upon a permit secured after the permit fee is paid as in the case of existing cesspools and septic tanks. All permit fees arising under this section shall inure to the Sewer Maintenance Fund. In case an available city sewer is provided later, the existing privy, cesspool, or septic tank used on the premises must be abandoned forthwith when the sewer is installed, and at the owners expense, the drain from any building shall be connected with the sewer and the abandoned cesspool, septic tank, or privy must then be cleaned and filled with fresh, tamped in properly earth.

If the lot size is insufficient to meet requirements for septic tank installation, a private sewer main may be required by the Board of Public Works, or its designated agent. *(Neb. RS 17-121) ('72 Code, § 3-806) Penalty, see § 10.99*

§ 54.28 Repairs and Maintenance

The city shall repair or replace, as the case may be, all pipe constituting the city sewer mains. It shall be the responsibility of the customer to repair or replace all private sewer pipe and appurtenances from the city main crossing the private and public

property to the customer's premises. All replacements and repairs made by the customer shall be done in the manner and with the materials approved by the Board of Public Works or its designated agent. (*'72 Code, § 3-810*) (*Am. Ord. 1493, passed 4-13-95; Am. Ord. 1815, passed 10-24-02*) *Penalty, see § 10.99*

§54.29 Old House Sewers

Old house sewers and drains may be used in connection with new buildings or new plumbing only when they are found, on examination by the Board of Public Works or its designated agent, to conform in all respects to the requirements governing new sewers and drains. If the old work is found defective or otherwise unsatisfactory, the owner shall be notified to make the necessary changes to conform with the provisions of the city code.

(*'72 Code, § 3-815*) (*Am. Ord. 1493, passed 4-13-95; Am. Ord. 1815, passed 10-24-02*)

§54.30 Unlawful Discharges

It shall be unlawful for any person to discharge or cause to be discharged any storm water, surface water, ground water, roof runoff, surface drainage, or unpolluted industrial process waters into the sanitary sewer. Except as hereinafter provided, no person shall discharge or cause to be discharged any of the following described waters or wastes into the city sewer system:

- (A) Liquids or vapors having a temperature higher than 150°F.
- (B) Water or waste which may contain more than 100 parts per million by weight of fat, oil, or grease.
- (C) Gasoline, benzene, naphtha, fuel oil, other flammable or explosive liquid, solid, or gas.
- (D) Garbage that has not been properly shredded.
- (E) Sand, mud, metal, rags, paper, or other solid or viscous substance capable of causing obstruction to the flow in the sewer system.
- (F) Toxic or poisonous substances in sufficient quantity to interfere with or injure the sewage treatment process, constitute a hazard to humans, animals, or fish, or create any hazard in the receiving area of the sewage treatment plant.
- (G) Suspended solids of such character and quantity that unusual attention or expense is required to handle such materials.
- (H) Waters or wastes having a pH lower than 5.5 or higher than 9.0 or having other corrosive properties capable of causing damage to the structures, equipment, and personnel of the City Sewer Department.

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(I) Any noxious or malodorous gas or substance capable of creating a public nuisance.

(J) Any Non Bio Degradable Matter

(Neb. RS 17-145) ('72 Code, § 3-817) Penalty, see § 10.99

§54.31 Special Equipment

In the event a customer of the City Sewer Department discharges an unusually large amount of waste daily, an unusually large amount of grease or oil, or waste with an unusually high biochemical oxygen demand, the Board of Public Works or its designated agent may require the customer to install interceptors or other preliminary treatment equipment to reduce the objectionable characteristics of the waste to within such maximum limits as he or she shall prescribe. All preliminary treatment facilities shall be purchased and maintained continuously in satisfactory and efficient operation at the customer's expense. Nothing herein shall be construed to prohibit a special agreement or arrangement between the Board of Public Works and an industrial concern whereby an industrial waste of unusual strength or character may be accepted by the city for treatment subject to additional rental fees or other charges. *('72 Code, § 3-818)*

§54.32 Manholes

Entrance into a manhole or opening for any purpose except by authorized persons is hereby prohibited. It shall be unlawful to deposit or cause to be deposited in any receptacle connected with the sewer system any substance which is not the usual and natural waste carried by the sewer system.

('72 Code, § 3-8 19) Penalty, see § 10.99

§54.33 Private Sewers

In the event that the Board of Public Works determines it is in the best interest of the city not to create a sewer district for the extension of any sewer main, a private sewer may be authorized by the Board of Public Works under the terms and conditions prescribed herein. No private sewer shall be built by any person without first making application therefore to the Board of Public Works and a resolution is approved authorizing the construction thereof by the Board of Public Works has been passed. No such resolution shall be adopted unless the applicant agrees to construct such sewer main in such a manner as to be available and feasible for use by all property owners within the area where such private sewer is to be constructed. The private sewer shall be constructed in accordance with

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the plans and specifications approved by the City Engineer and the Board of Public Works, and the construction shall be at all times under the direct supervision and control of the Board of Public Works or its designated agent.

*('72 Code, § 3-821) (Am. Ord. 1493, passed 4-13-95; Am. Ord. 1815, passed 10-24-02)
Penalty, see § 10.99*

§54.34 Sewer Backup Valve

Any building sewer connected to the city sewer system after November 15, 1991, shall have installed, at the building sewer owner's expense, a backwater valve or such other device that precludes sewage from leaving the sewer system and entering the building where the building sewer is located. The device and the installation of the device shall be inspected and approved by the Plumbing Inspector. The maintenance and repair of the device shall be the responsibility of the building owner.

('72 Code, § 3-823) (Ord. 1375, passed 11-14-91) Penalty, see § 10.99

§54.35 Back-Ups and Clean-Ups

Wahoo Utilities is not responsible for damage resulting from inappropriate items being placed into the sewer collector system. Biodegradable material is the only approved discharge into the system. City ordinances and the building code require check valves to prevent backups. The Utility offers the sewer system as a convenience and does not guarantee its performance.

If the customer has a back up, after notifying Wahoo Utility, they should immediately start clean up and salvage procedures. Wahoo Utility will investigate the situation and file a report on the cause, if determinable, of the backup. The customer should file a claim with their insurance company. If the customer believes that Wahoo Utility is responsible, they may file a claim with supporting documentation and copies of expenses. The claim will be presented to the Board of Public Works for action. The board may forward the claim to an adjuster or elect to pay it. Wahoo Utilities will ONLY pay after the cleanup, thereby guaranteeing that it was accomplished. If the claim is paid, it is with the understanding that the customer is aware their property requires back flow preventors and agrees to install one.

Rates; Charges

§54.50 Installation Expense

The customer, upon approval of his or her application for sewer service, shall pay to the Board of Public Works a tap fee. The customer shall hire a licensed plumber

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under the direction of the Board of Public Works or its designated agent to tap the main. The customer shall be required to pay the expense of procuring the materials required as well as the services of a licensed plumber and shall pay all other costs of installation. In addition thereto the customer shall pay to the municipality a tap fee for the privilege of using the main and treatment facilities.

(A) All costs of the municipality in restoring the public ways and property shall be assessed to and paid by the customer.

('72 Code, § 3-809) (Am. Ord. 1756, passed 4-12-01; Am. Ord. 1815, passed 10-24-02)

Statutory reference: Authority, see Neb. RS 1 8-503

§54.51 Lien

In addition to all other remedies, if a customer shall for any reason remain indebted to the city for sewer service furnished, such amount due, together with any rents and charges in arrears, shall be considered a delinquent sewer rent which is hereby declared to be a lien upon the real estate for which the same was furnished. The Board of Public Works shall notify in writing, or cause to be notified in writing, all owners of premises or their agents whenever their tenants or lessees are 60 days or more delinquent in the payment of sewer rent. It shall be the duty of the Board of Public Works on the first day of June of each year to report to the Mayor and Council a list of all unpaid accounts due for sewer service together with a description of the premises served. The report shall be examined, and if approved by the Mayor and Council, shall be certified by the City Clerk to the County Clerk to be collected as a special tax in the manner provided by law.

('72 Code, § 3-813) (Am. Ord. 1815, passed 10-24-02)

Statutory reference: Authority, see Neb. RS 17-925.01

§54.52 Metering

By special contact, all commercial or special discharge into the sewer system shall be metered for volume and/or strength of contents before entry in to the public sewer system. Commercial accounts shall be billed on their monthly water consumption.

Residential customer bills shall be based on water consumption during the months of January, February, and March of the current year or estimates of the utility.

(A) An additional water meter may be installed to avoid sewer charges for water consumption not entering the sewer system. See Water Section 53.28.