

**Chapter 13A**  
**WASTEWATER**

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**13A.01      DEFINITIONS**

Terms used in this Chapter are defined in Chapter 13E and Appendix A of this Code.

**13A.02      USE OF SEWERS REQUIRED**

A. It is unlawful for any person to place, deposit or permit to be deposited in any unsanitary manner on public or private property within any area under the jurisdiction of the City, any human or animal excrement, garbage or other objectionable waste.

B. It is unlawful for any person to discharge to any storm sewer, drain, natural outlet or watercourse within any area within the jurisdiction of the City, any sewage, industrial waste or other polluted waters, except where suitable treatment has been provided in accordance with this Code.

C. It is unlawful to construct or maintain any privy, privy vault, septic tank, cesspool or other facility intended or used for the disposal of sewage unless: (Ord 2021-118, §1)

a City sanitary sewer main is not located adjacent or parallel to the Property. In the event that a City sanitary sewer main is not located adjacent or parallel to the Property; the private septic system on the Property shall be maintained pursuant to McHenry County ordinances and if the septic system shall require reconstruction or replacement before a City sanitary sewer main is adjacent or parallel to the Property, said reconstruction and/or replacement shall be pursuant to McHenry County ordinances.

D. The owners of all houses, buildings or properties used for human occupancy, employment, recreation or other purposes, situated within the City, are required to install, at their own expense, suitable toilet facilities therein, and to connect such facilities directly with the public sanitary sewer. No connection, however, shall be made to the public sanitary sewer unless the sewage treatment plant has sufficient available capacity for such connections in accordance with allowable loads and effluent limitations of the NPDES permit for the treatment works.

E. A separate and independent building sewer shall be provided for every building.

### **13A.03 SEWER CONNECTIONS**

A. It is unlawful for any unauthorized person to 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 City.

B. It is unlawful to discharge wastewater to any public sanitary sewer except those wastewaters in compliance with standards promulgated pursuant to the Act or any rules, regulations, ordinances or standards of the City.

C. There shall be two separate classes of building sewer permits: for residential and commercial service, and 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 City. The permit application shall be supplemented by any plans, specifications or other information required by the City.

Each industry, as a condition of permit authorization, must provide information describing its wastewater constituents, characteristics and type of activity.

D. A building sewer permit will only be issued and a sewer connection shall only be allowed if it can be demonstrated that the downstream sewer works, including sewers, pump stations and wastewater treatment facilities, have sufficient reserve capacity to adequately and efficiently handle the additional anticipated waste load.

E. All costs and expense incident to the installation and connection of the building sewer shall be borne by the owner. The person installing the building sewer for said owner shall be a plumber or sewer contractor, and he shall indemnify the City from any loss or damage that may directly or indirectly be occasioned by said installation. Before a building sewer permit is issued, the plumber or sewer contractor shall file with the City Clerk an indemnity bond in the amount of \$10,000.00 with corporate surety licensed to do business in the state, on bond form supplied by the City. In addition, the plumber or sewer contractor shall file with the City Clerk a certificate of insurance covering public liability insurance in the amount of \$100,000 to \$300,000 for bodily injury and \$50,000 covering property damage.

F. Old building sewers may be used in connection with new buildings only when they are found on examination and test by the City to meet all requirements of this Code.

G. Materials used and the method of installation shall be in conformance with the specifications established by the City.

H. No person shall connect 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.

I. The connection of the building sewer to the public sewer shall be made under the supervision of the City.

J. All excavations for building sewer installation shall be adequately guarded with barricades and lights so as to protect the public from hazard. Streets, sidewalks, parkways and other property disturbed in the course of the work shall be restored in a manner satisfactory to the City. Prior to any excavation, the plumber or sewer contractor shall notify all public and private utility companies. If any street must be opened to reach the public sewer, a flat fee of \$50 plus \$10 per foot will be charged.

#### **13A.04 WASTES ADMISSIBLE TO THE WASTEWATER FACILITIES**

The following wastes are admissible to the wastewater facilities of the City:

1. Any compatible pollutant except that the strength, volume and rate of flow of the waste may be regulated.
2. Any incompatible pollutant which is identified in the NPDES permit received by the City except that the total from all sources may not exceed the amount allowed under the NPDES permit.
3. Any incompatible pollutant for which an effluent standard has been established by the IEPA or promulgated by authority of the Act provided that:
  - a. The aggregate total from all sources shall not exceed the total allowable to the wastewater treatment facilities based on the average dry weather flow. It is assumed that there will be no removal of the incompatible waste in the treatment facilities.
  - b. The concentration of the incompatible waste discharged from any source shall not exceed two times the concentration allowed in the wastewater treatment facility effluent.
  - c. The concentration of the incompatible waste will not adversely affect the stream standards established for Mokeler Creek.
  - d. Any waters or wastes containing substances exceeding the following maximum concentrations of pollutants:

<b>Pollutant</b>	<b>Storet Number</b>	<b>Maximum Concentration</b>
Five-day BOD	00310	300.0 mg/l
TSS (total suspended solids)	00530	350.0 mg/l
TDS (total dissolved solids)	70300	2500.0 mg/l
Ammonia as N	00610	30.0 mg/l
Arsenic	01002	1.5 mg/l
Barium	01007	10.0 mg/l
Boron	01022	3.0 mg/l
Cadmium	01027	0.3 mg/l
Chloride	00940	800.0 mg/l
Chromium (total hexavalent)	01032	1.0 mg/l
Chromium (total trivalent)	01033	3.0 mg/l
Copper	01042	2.0 mg/l
Cyanide	00720	0.2 mg/l
Fluoride	00951	15.0 mg/l
Iron (total)	01045	10.0 mg/l
Lead	01051	1.0 mg/l
Manganese	01055	4.0 mg/l
Mercury	71900	0.002 mg/l
Nickel	01067	4.0 mg/l
Oil and Grease (Hexane soluble)	00550	100.00 mg/l
Phenols	32730	1.0 mg/l
Phosphorus as P	00665	25.0 mg/l
Selenium	01147	3.0 mg/l
Silver	01077	0.1 mg/l
Sulfate	00945	800.0 mg/l
Zinc	01092	4.0 mg/l
pH	00400	5.5 to 9.5 std. units

The total concentration of all chromium, copper, lead, nickel and zinc in combination, shall not exceed 7.5 mg/l.

4. The City may from time to time establish maximum concentrations of various pollutants in the wastewater treatment facility effluent.

### **13A.05 WASTES INADMISSIBLE TO THE WASTEWATER FACILITIES**

The following wastes shall not be discharged into the wastewater facilities of the City:

1. Wastes which interfere with the operation of the wastewater facilities.
2. Any cyanide or cyanogen compound unless an IEPA permit has been received by

the City.

3. Mercury or any of its compounds in excess of 0.0005 mg/l as Hg at any time.
4. Storm water, surface water, ground water, roof runoff and subsurface drainage.
5. Uncontaminated cooling water or unpolluted industrial process waters.
6. Wastes which may create a fire or explosion hazard in the wastewater facilities.
7. Wastes which will cause corrosive structural damage to the wastewater facilities.
8. Wastes with pH lower than 6.0 or higher than 9.0.
9. Solid or viscous wastes in amounts which would cause obstructions to flow in sewers or other interference with the proper operation of the wastewater facilities.
10. Wastes at a flow rate and/or pollutant discharge rate which is excessive over relatively short time periods so that there is a treatment process upset and subsequent loss of treatment efficiency. Provided, however, that concentration of any given constituent or in quantity of flow shall not exceed five times the average 24 hour concentration or flows during normal operation for any period exceeding 15 minutes.
11. Any incompatible waste except as admissible in Section 13A.04.
12. Any compatible waste, the strength of which exceeds normal domestic wastewater in any constituent except as permitted by the City Council.
13. Any waste containing more than 100 mg/l of fats, oils or grease.
14. Any garbage that has not been properly shredded. The discharge of garbage into the wastewater facilities by any user except a domestic user shall be subject to review by the City Council and may be rejected if it determines there is inadequate treatment capacity available.
15. Any liquid having a temperature higher than 150 degrees Fahrenheit.
16. Any wastes containing phenols or other taste or odor producing substances in such concentrations exceeding limits established by the City Council.
17. Any wastes which will cause discoloration such as, but not limited to, dye wastes or printing inks.
18. Any wastes which alone or in combination with other wastes will cause the violation of any effluent or stream standards established by the IEPA or by authority of the

Act.

### **13A.06 GREASE, OIL AND SAND INTERCEPTORS**

A. A grease interceptor (trap) shall be installed if the grease content of the wastewater exceeds 100 mg/l. The grease trap shall be located so that it may be readily cleaned and inspected. Each grease trap shall be sized so that it will continuously produce an effluent containing less than 100 mg/l of fats, oils or grease. Each grease trap shall be properly maintained at no cost to the City.

B. An oil or sand interceptor shall be installed if required by the City to prevent the entrance of sand or similar granular material, or oil into the wastewater facilities of the City. Said interceptor shall be properly constructed and continuously maintained at no cost to the City.

C. Equipment and devices installed under this Section shall not be considered to provide pretreatment to the wastewater. And no special operation permits or operating data shall be required.

### **13A.07 PRETREATMENT**

A. Any user discharging or proposing to discharge any wastewater into the wastewater facilities of the City which contain substances or possess the characteristics enumerated in Section 13A.05 and/or which are in violation of the standards established by the IEPA or USEPA shall provide pretreatment of the wastewater to an acceptable condition for discharge to the wastewater facilities. All required permits shall be filed with the Clerk prior to the start of constructing pretreatment facilities.

B. Any user discharging or proposing to discharge a compatible waste, the strength of which exceeds normal domestic waste in any constituent, shall install a pretreatment facility if required by the City. If pretreatment is required it shall apply uniformly to all users within the industry number.

C. Any user proposing to construct a pretreatment facility shall have the plans and specifications approved in writing by the City Engineer and an IEPA permit prior to receiving a permit by the City.

D. Any user proposing to operate a pretreatment facility shall comply with all requirements of the IEPA and shall submit such operating data as may be required by the City.

### **13A.08 CONTROL MANHOLE, METERS AND SAMPLERS**

A. Each industry shall be required to install a control manhole and, when required by the City, the owner of any property serviced by a building sewer carrying industrial wastes shall install a suitable control manhole, together with such necessary meters and other appurtenances in the building sewer to facilitate observation, sampling and measurement of wastes. Such manhole, when required, shall be accessible and safely located, and shall be constructed in accordance with plans approved by the City. 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.

B. Flow Meters: Any user except a domestic user may be required to install a flow meter in the inspection manhole to accurately measure and record the rate of discharge of and the volume of wastewater discharged to a public sanitary sewer.

Any user, except a domestic user, may install a flow meter in the inspection manhole to accurately measure and record the rate of discharge of and the volume of wastewater discharged to a public sanitary sewer for billing purposes if approved by the City.

Flow meters shall be a permanent installation and shall include equipment to accurately indicate, record and totalize the flow and shall be approved by the City prior to installation. The equipment required to indicate, record and total the flow shall be located in a warm, dry, location and be accessible for reading. The equipment shall be recalibrated a minimum of once a year and a certificate of calibration filed with the City. The user shall submit flow records to the City monthly.

C. Samplers. Each industrial user and such other users except domestic users as may be designated by the City shall be required to sample the wastewater. The frequency of sampling shall be determined by the City. The minimum frequency of sampling shall not be less than once a year.

Samples shall be tested for constituents determined by the City by a commercial laboratory approved by the City and a copy of the analysis sent to the City. The user shall pay all costs of sampling and analysis.

### **13A.09 TAMPERING WITH SEWERAGE WORKS**

No unauthorized person shall maliciously, willfully or negligently break, damage, destroy or tamper with any structure, appurtenance or equipment which is a part of the sewerage works. Any person violating this provision shall be subject to immediate arrest under charge of disorderly conduct and damaging public property.

### **13A.10 MAINTENANCE OF SANITARY SEWER LINES**

The service pipe that extends from the public sewer to the building shall be maintained by the property owner. The City shall be responsible for the maintenance of public sewers. In the event a leak occurs in the service pipe, anywhere from the public sewer and including the building service, the property owner shall make repairs within 30 days of detection. In the event of an emergency, the time and method of repairs shall be directed by the City. The City may, in case of an emergency only, repair any service pipe and the cost of such repair work shall be repaid to the City by the property owner.

### **13A.11 EXTENDING PUBLIC SANITARY SEWERS**

The procedures for extending public sanitary sewers are contained in Section 13C.03 of the Harvard Municipal Code.

## **13A.12 CONNECTION TO WASTEWATER FACILITIES**

A. No person shall construct a new wastewater source and connect same to the wastewater facilities of the City without first making application to the City for the privilege of making said connection and to have a written permit approved by the City and to pay all fees.

B. Persons desiring to construct a new waste source and connect same to the wastewater facilities of the City shall, in addition to making application, state the quantity, quality and rate of discharge of the wastewater to be discharged into the sewer. In the case of any fraudulent representation on the part of the user, the payment will be forfeited and the use of the sewer stopped.

No permit will be issued until the permittee:

1. Pays the connection fee as prescribed in this Section.
2. Secures a street opening permit if required in conformance with the provisions of Chapter 7.
3. Agrees to pay all costs of the installation including the connection to the public sewer, if required.
4. Agrees to give the City 24 hours notice prior to the start of any underground piping and when the underground piping will be ready for inspection, except that no inspections will be made at times other than during regular City working hours.
5. Agrees that the materials used and the method of installation shall be in conformance with specifications established by the City Engineer.
6. Agrees to pay all cost of inspection if such inspection is deemed necessary by the City.
7. Agrees to conform to all rules governing plumbers and to the regulations of the State Plumbing License Law.
8. Agrees to secure and protect the City from any liability or damage whatsoever for injury, including death, to any person or property and files with the City liability insurance certificates.
9. Secures an IEPA permit if the wastewater:
  - a. Is domestic and the volume to be discharged is more than 1,500 gallons per day (gpd).



b. Is industrial.

10. Secures a building permit if new waste source is new equipment to be installed within an existing building.

11. Agrees to conform to all applicable sections of this Code.

C. The tap on fees for construction of a new wastewater source and connecting same to the wastewater facilities of the City shall be found in Chapter 20, City Fees and Charges, of this Code. (Ord. 2005-143A, §2)

D. No connection will be allowed to the wastewater facilities if the City Council determines:

1. The wastewater facilities have inadequate treatment or delivery capacity.

2. The wastewater contains incompatible wastes in excess of that allowed by this Chapter.

3. The wastewater contains inadmissible substances.

4. The strength, volume or rate of discharge of a compatible waste from a single source or class of users alters substantially the operation of the wastewater facilities.

E. Any public sewerage works user located outside the corporate limits of the City shall be required to annex into the City. In the event said property is not contiguous to the City, the property owner will be required to annex said property as soon as it becomes contiguous. No future sewer tap on applications shall be approved unless the subject property has been annexed to the City.

### **13A.13 LIMITATIONS ON DISCHARGE OF WASTEWATER**

In case of making repairs, alterations or constructing new facilities or for any other reason, the Mayor and City Council reserves the right to limit the discharge of wastewater to the wastewater facilities for as long as may be necessary by giving such reasonable notice thereof as shall be practical to the user. No claim shall be made against the City by reason of the above or by reason of the breakage or failure of any portion of the wastewater facilities.

### **13A.14 SEPTAGE DISPOSAL AGREEMENTS (Deleted Ord. 94-119, 1994)**

### **13A.15 PENALTY**

Unless another penalty is specifically provided by this chapter for the violation of any particular section hereof, any person violating any provision of this chapter or any rule or regulation adopted or issued in pursuance hereof, or any lawful order made by a City official hereunder, shall,

upon conviction, be subject to a fine of not less than \$50.00 nor more than \$500.00, plus all costs of prosecution, including but not limited to filing fees, witness fees, attorneys fees and revocation of the sewer permit.