

CHAPTER 21: SANITARY SEWERAGE

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Section 21-101 Definitions

Unless the context specifically indicates otherwise, the meaning of certain terms and words used in this chapter shall be as follows:

1. **B.O.D. (Denoting Biochemical Oxygen Demand).** The quantity of oxygen utilized in the biochemical oxidation of organic matter under standard laboratory procedure in five (5) days at twenty degrees (20°) centigrade, expressed in milligrams per liter.
2. **Drain, Building.** 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 outside the inner face of the building wall.
3. **Garbage.** Solid wastes from the preparation, cooking, and disposing of food, and from the handling, storage, and sale of produce.
4. **Garbage, Properly Shredded.** The wastes from the preparation, cooking, and dispensing of food that have been shredded to such 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 in any dimension.
5. **Outlet, Natural.** Any outlet into a watercourse, pond, ditch, lake, or other body of surface or ground water.
6. **pH.** The logarithm of the reciprocal of the weight of hydrogen ions in grams per liter of solution.
7. **Person.** Any individual, firm, company, association, society, corporation, or group.
8. **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.
9. **Sewage Treatment Plant.** Any arrangement of devices and structures or lagoons used for treating sewage presently owned or afterward acquired by this municipality.
10. **Sewer.** A pipe or conduit for carrying sewage.
11. **Sewer, Building.** The extension from the building drain to the public sewer or other place of disposal.
12. **Sewer, Public.** A sewer in which all owners of abutting properties have equal rights and which is controlled by public authority.
13. **Sewer, Sanitary.** A sewer which carries sewage and to which storm, surface, and ground waters are not intentionally admitted.
14. **Sewer, Storm or Storm Drain.** A sewer which carries storm and surface waters and drainage, but excludes sewage and polluted industrial wastes.
15. **Sewerage Works.** All facilities for collecting, pumping, treating, and disposing of sewage.
16. **Superintendent.** The duly authorized person as designed by the Mayor and City Council who is charged with certain duties and responsibilities.
17. **Suspended Solids.** Solids that either float on the surface of, or are in suspension in water, sewage, or other liquids; and which are removable by laboratory filtering.
18. **Wastes, Industrial.** The liquid solid or gaseous wastes from industrial or trade processes as distinct from domestic wastes.

19. Watercourse. A channel in which a flow of water occurs, either continuously or intermittently.

Section 21-102 General Regulations

1. It shall be unlawful for any person to place, spill, deposit, or permit to be deposited in any manner creating unsanitary conditions or creating a public nuisance on public or private property within this municipality, or in any other jurisdiction of said municipality, any human or animal excrement, garbage, or other objectionable waste.
2. It shall be unlawful to discharge or cause to be discharged to any natural outlet within this municipality, or in any area under the jurisdiction of said municipality, any sanitary sewage, industrial wastes, or other polluted waters, except where suitable treatment has been provided in accordance with subsequent provisions of this chapter.
3. Except as hereinafter provided, it shall be unlawful for any person to construct or maintain or cause to be constructed or maintained any privy, privy vault, septic tank, cesspool, or other facility intended or used for the disposal of sewage.
4. It shall be unlawful for any person to maliciously, willfully, or negligently break, damage, destroy, uncover, deface, or tamper with any structure, appurtenance, or equipment which is a part of the municipal sewerage works.
5. All waste water shall be discharged to the public sewer system or in a private disposal system in accordance with this chapter.
6. Temporary self-contained sewage disposal units for construction sites or special short duration events are permitted, provided such devices are approved by the city and are removed after the construction is completed or the event is terminated.
7. Any municipal corporation shall also have all powers pursuant to *O.C.G.A. § 36-34-5*.

Section 21-103 Connection to Public Sewers

The owner of all houses, buildings, or properties used for human occupancy, employment, recreation, or other purposes within the corporate limits of this municipality, and located within two hundred fifty (250) feet of a line of public sanitary sewer now in existence or after constructed to which such house, building, or property may be connected so that sewage will flow therefrom and into such sewer line by gravity, is hereby required at his own expense to install suitable toilet facilities therein and to connect such facilities directly with said line of public sanitary sewer in accordance with said line of public sanitary sewer in accordance with the provisions of this chapter within sixty (60) days after date of official notice so to do.

Section 21-104 Reserved

Section 21-105 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 appurtenances thereof without first obtaining a written permit from the Superintendent.
2. There shall be two (2) classes of building sewer permits: (1) for residential and commercial service; and (2) 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. The permit application shall be supplemented by any plans, specifications, or other information considered pertinent in the judgment of the Superintendent. A permit and inspection fee as determined by the Mayor and City Council for a residential or commercial building sewer permit or an industrial building sewer permit shall be paid to the municipality at the time the application is filed.
3. All costs and expenses incident to the connection of the building sewer from the owner's building to the municipal property line shall be borne by the owner. The owner shall indemnify the municipality from any loss or damage that may be directly or indirectly occasioned by the connection of the building sewer. Any connection from the municipal property line into the public sewer shall be made by the municipality, for which the owner shall pay the municipality a standard sewer tap fee as determined by the Mayor and City Council.

4. A separate and independent building sewer shall be provided for every building; except where one (1) building stands at the rear of another or 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, the building sewer from the front building may be extended to the rear building and the whole considered as one (1) building sewer.
5. Old building sewers may be used in connection with new buildings when they are found, on examination and test by the Superintendent, to meet all requirements of this chapter.
6. The building sewer shall be cast iron pipe; ASTM Specifications A74; vitrified clay sewer pipe, ASTM Specifications C13; or concrete sewer pipe, ASTM Specifications C14. Joints shall be tight and waterproof. Any part of the building sewer that is located within ten (10) feet of a water service shall be constructed of cast iron soil pipe with leaded joints. Cast iron pipe with leaded joints may be required by the Superintendent where the building sewer is exposed to damage by tree roots. If installed in filled or unstable ground, the building sewer shall be of cast iron soil pipe, except that non-metallic material may be accepted if laid on a suitable concrete bed or cradle as approved by the Superintendent.
7. The size and slope of the building sewer shall be subject to the approval of the Superintendent, but in no event shall the diameter be less than four (4) inches. The slope of such four (4) inch pipe shall not be less than one-eighth (1/8) inch per foot.
8. Whenever possible the building sewer shall be brought to the building at an elevation below the basement floor. No building sewer shall be laid parallel to or within three (3) feet of any bearing wall, which might thereby be weakened. The building sewer shall be laid at uniform grade and in straight alignment insofar as possible. Changes in direction shall be made only with properly curved pipes and fittings.
9. 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.
10. All excavations required for the installation of a building sewer shall be open trench work unless otherwise approved by the Superintendent. Pipe laying and back fill shall be performed in accordance with ASTM Specification C12; except that no back fill shall be placed until the work has been inspected.
11. All joints and connections shall be made gastight and watertight.

Cast iron pipe joints shall be firmly placed with oakum or hemp and filled with molten lead, Federal Specification QQL-156, not less than one (1) inch deep. Lead shall be run in one (1) pouring and caulked tight. No paint, varnish, or other coating shall be permitted on the joint material until after the joint has been tested and approved. Rubber joint cast iron pipe may be used as an alternate.

All joints in vitrified clay or concrete pipe or between such pipe and metals shall be made with approved hot-pouring jointing material, as specified below, or by using rubber gaskets or preformed, factory-applied couplings having resilient properties in accordance with ASTM Specification C443-59T for concrete pipe, and ASTM Specification C425-64 for vitrified clay pipe, or the latest revisions thereof.

Material for hot-poured joints shall not soften sufficiently to destroy the effectiveness of the joint when subjected to a temperature of one hundred sixty degrees (160o) Fahrenheit, nor be soluble in any of the wastes carried by the drainage system. The joint shall first be caulked tight with jute, hemp, or similar approved material.

- Other jointing materials and methods may be used only by approval of the Superintendent.
12. The 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 the public sewer is twelve (12) inches in diameter or less, and no properly located "Y" branch is available, the municipality shall install a "Y" branch in the public sewer at the location specified by the Superintendent. Where the public sewer is greater than twelve (12) inches in diameter, and no properly located "Y" is available, a neat hold may be cut into the public sewer to receive the building sewer, with entry in the downstream direction at an angle of about forty-five degrees (45o). A forty-five (45o) "ell" may be used to make such connection, with the spigot end cut so as not to extend past the inner surface of the public sewer. The invert of the building sewer at the point of connection shall be at the same or at a higher elevation than the invert of the public sewer. A smooth, neat joint shall be made, and the connection made secure and watertight by encasement in concrete. Special fittings may be used for the connection only when approved by the Superintendent.

13. 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.
14. 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 public property disturbed in the course of the work shall be restored in a manner satisfactory to the municipality.

Section 21-106 Regulation of Discharges into Public Sewers

1. No person shall discharge, or cause to be discharged, any storm water, surface water, ground water, roof runoff, subsurface drainage, cooling water, or unpolluted industrial process waters to any sanitary sewer.
2. Storm water 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 Superintendent. Industrial cooling water or unpolluted process waters may be discharged upon approval of the Superintendent, to a storm sewer or natural outlet.
3. Except as hereinafter provided, no person shall discharge, or cause to be discharged, any of the following described waters or wastes to any public sewer:
 - A. Any liquid or vapor having a temperature higher than one hundred fifty degrees (150o) Fahrenheit;
 - B. Any water or waste which may contain more than one hundred (100) milligrams per liter of fat, oil, or grease;
 - C. Any gasoline, benzene, naphtha, fuel oil, or other flammable or explosive liquid, solid, or gas;
 - D. Any garbage that has not been properly shredded;
 - E. Any ashes, cinders, sand, mud, straw, shavings, metal, glass, rags, feathers, tar plastics, wood paunch, manure, or any other solid or viscous substance capable of causing obstruction to the flow in sewers or other interference with the proper operation of the sewage works;
 - F. Any waters or wastes having a ph lower than five and one-half (5.5) or higher than nine (9.0), or having any other corrosive property capable of causing damage or hazard to structures, equipment, and personnel of the sewage works;
 - G. Any waters or wastes containing a toxic or poisonous substance in sufficient quantity to injure or interfere with any sewage treatment process, constitute a hazard to humans or animals, or create any hazard in the receiving waters of the sewage treatment plant. The fixed upper limits for the constituents listed below, in parts per million, shall be:

1. Cadmium	0.02	6. Silver	1.0
2. Chromium	1.0	7. Lead	0.1
3. Copper	1.0	8. Zinc	3.0
4. Cyanide	0.2	9. Phenol	0.05
5. Nickel	1.0	10. Arsenic	0.05

- H. Any waters or wastes containing suspended solids of such character and quantity that unusual attention or expense is required to handle such materials at the sewage treatment plant;
- I. Any noxious or malodorous gas or substance capable of creating a public nuisance.
4. 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, and other harmful ingredients. Such interceptors shall be of a type and capacity approved by the Superintendent and shall be located as to be readily and easily accessible for cleaning and inspection.

Grease and oil interceptors shall be constructed of impervious materials capable of withstanding abrupt and extreme changes in temperature. They shall be of substantial construction, watertight, and equipped with easily removable covers which, when bolted in place, shall be gastight and watertight.
5. When installed, all grease, oil, and sand interceptors shall be maintained by the owner, at his expense, in continuously efficient operation at all times.

6. The admission into the public sewers of any water or wastes having (a) five (5) day biochemical oxygen demand greater than three hundred (300) milligrams per liter; or (b) containing more than three hundred fifty (350) milligrams per liter of suspended solids, or (c) containing any quantity of substance having the characteristics described in subsection 3 above, or (d) having an average daily flow greater than two percent (2%) of the average daily sewage flow of the municipality, shall be subject to the review and approval of the Superintendent. Where necessary in the opinion of the Superintendent, the owner shall provide at his expense such preliminary treatment as may be necessary to (a) reduce the biochemical oxygen demand to three hundred (300) milligrams per liter and the suspended solids to three hundred fifty (350) milligrams per liter, or (b) reduce objectionable characteristics or constituents to within the maximum limits provided for in subsection 3 above, or (c) control the quantities and rates of discharge of such water or wastes. Plans, specifications, and any other pertinent information relating to proposed preliminary treatment facilities shall be submitted for the approval of the Superintendent, and no construction of such facilities shall be commenced until said approval is obtained in writing.
7. Where preliminary treatment 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 served by a building sewer carrying industrial wastes shall install a suitable control manhole in the building sewer to facilitate observation, sampling, and measurement of the wastes. Such manhole, when required, shall be accessible and safely located, and shall be installed by the owner at his expense, and the owner at his expense shall maintain the same so the manhole shall 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 subsection 3 and 6 above shall be determined in accordance with "Standard Methods for the Examination of Water and Sewage," at the control manhole provided in subsection 8 above, or upon suitable samples taken at such 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.
10. No statement contained in this section shall be construed as preventing any special agreement or arrangement between the municipality and 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.

Section 21-107 Power and Authority of Inspectors

The Superintendent and other duly authorized employees of the municipality bearing proper credentials and identification shall be permitted to enter upon all properties for the purpose of inspection, observation, measurement, sampling, and testing, in accordance with the provisions of this chapter.

Section 21-108 Penalties

1. Any person found to be violating any provision of this chapter, except subsection 4 of Section 21-102, 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. If the offender fails or refuses to comply with such order he may be required to show cause before the Mayor and City Council why enforcement action and/or penalties should not be taken against him. Upon conclusion of the hearing, the Mayor and City Council shall issue such order as may be deemed appropriate.
2. If any person discharges sewage, industrial wastes or other wastes into the city's waste water disposal system contrary to the provisions of this chapter, federal or state pretreatment requirements, or any order of the city, the Mayor and City Council may direct the City Attorney to commence an action for appropriate legal and/or equitable relief in the Elbert County Superior Court.
3. Any person who shall violate the provisions of subsection 4 of Section 21-102 of this chapter or who shall continue any violation hereof beyond the time limit provided for in Section 21-103 hereof, or who shall continue any other violation hereof beyond the time limit provided for in subsection 1 above, shall be deemed guilty of a municipal offense and upon conviction therefor shall be punished by a fine of not more than two hundred dollars (\$ 200.00), or by imprisonment for not more than thirty (30) days, or both such fine and imprisonment for each violation. A separate offense shall be deemed committed upon each day during or on which a violation occurs or continues.

Section 21-109 Operator Class I and II Certificates from State Board

Any person who performs operational duties and water treatment plant and wastewater treatment plant laboratory testing for reporting purposes for operator classifications I and II, as defined by the State Board of Examiners for Certification of Water and Wastewater Treatment Plant Operators and Laboratory Analysts, at wastewater treatment plants, wastewater collection systems, water distribution systems, or public water supply systems shall obtain a certificate from the State Board in accordance with *O.C.G.A.* § 43-51-6.