

Chapter 508. Wastewater Facilities

Article II. Sewer Use

§ 508-8. Use of public sewers.

A. Unpolluted water exclusion.
[Amended by Ord. No. 00-26]

- (1) Purpose. In adopting this subsection, the Watertown Common Council finds that the discharge of clear or unpolluted water from roofs, surfaces, groundwater sump pumps, footing tile, swimming pools, subsurface drainage, unpolluted cooling or process water, or other natural precipitation into the City sewerage system will, and has on numerous occasions in the past, flood and overload the sanitary sewerage system to such an extent as to cause significant and grave damage to the property of large numbers of City residents. Such damage is caused by the backup of sewage into the living quarters of residents and, in addition to other damage, creates a hazard to health. The Common Council, therefore, finds it essential to the maintenance of health, to the minimization of damage to property, and to meet applicable state regulations that the provisions of this subsection be strictly enforced to avoid emergencies in the future.
- (2) Definition and regulation. No water from any roof, surface, groundwater sump pump, footing tile, swimming pool, subsurface drainage, unpolluted cooling or process water, or other natural precipitation shall be discharged into the sanitary sewerage system. Dwellings and other buildings and structures which require, because of infiltration of clear or unpolluted water into basements, crawl spaces and the like, a sump pump discharge system shall have a permanently installed discharge line, which shall not at any time discharge clear or unpolluted water into the sanitary sewerage system except as herein provided. A permanent installation shall be one which provides for year-round discharge capability to either the outside of the dwelling, building or structure, or is connected to the City storm sewer, or discharges through the curb and gutter to the street. It shall consist of a rigid discharge line without valving or quick connections for altering the path of discharge.
- (3) Disconnection. If it is determined by City personnel that any person, firm or corporation is causing clear or unpolluted water to enter into the City sanitary sewerage system, within 60 days after such inspection the property owner shall disconnect and/or remove the same. Any disconnects or openings in the sanitary sewerage system shall be closed or repaired in an effective, workmanlike manner, as provided by the Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator or his designated agent.
- (4) Inspection.
 - (a) Every person owning a building that discharges into the City sanitary sewerage system shall allow an employee of the City of Watertown Wastewater Treatment Plant, or his designated representative, to inspect the building to confirm that there is no sump pump or other prohibited discharge into the sanitary sewerage system. In lieu of having the City inspect his property, any person may furnish a certificate from a licensed plumber, certifying that his property is in compliance with this subsection.
 - (b) Any person refusing to allow his property to be inspected or refusing to furnish a plumber's certificate within 14 days of the date the City employees or their designated representatives are denied admittance to his property shall immediately become subject to the surcharge herein provided. Any property found to violate this subsection shall make the necessary changes to comply with this subsection and furnish proof of the changes within 60 days.

- (5) Sump pump inspections. Each sump pump connection identified may be reinspected on a yearly basis in conjunction with yearly water meter inspections.
 - (6) Surcharge. A surcharge of \$100 per month is hereby imposed and added to every sewer billing 60 days after inspection to owner-occupied properties which are not in compliance with this subsection. A surcharge of \$100 per month is hereby imposed and will be billed monthly 60 days after inspection to the owners of properties not owner-occupied (rentals) which are not in compliance with this subsection. All properties found during yearly reinspection to have violated this subsection shall be subject to the one-hundred-dollar-per-month penalty for all months between the last inspection and the current inspection.
[Amended by Ord. No. 01-45]
 - (7) Temporary connection to sanitary sewer. If a determination is made that a property owner is discharging clear or unpolluted water into the sanitary sewer, upon recommendation by the Public Works Commission the property owner may be allowed to continue to discharge clear or unpolluted water into the sanitary sewer during the winter months (November 1 to April 1) if there is no storm sewer on the abutting street. The purpose of this exception is to prevent the discharge of water onto the City street which would produce the accumulation of ice and result in hazardous driving conditions.
- B. Disposal of unpolluted water. Stormwater and all other unpolluted water shall be discharged to a storm sewer or natural outlet. The discharge of unpolluted water into a natural outlet or storm sewer shall comply with applicable state and federal regulations.
- C. General discharge prohibitions. No user shall contribute or cause to be contributed, directly or indirectly, any pollutant or wastewater which will interfere with the operation or performance of the wastewater facilities. These general prohibitions apply to all such users of the City's wastewater facilities, whether or not the user is subject to national categorical pretreatment standards or any other national, state or local pretreatment standards or requirements. A user may not contribute the following substances to the City's wastewater facilities:
- (1) Any substance which creates a fire or explosion hazard in the wastewater facilities, including but not limited to waste streams with a closed cup flash point of less than 140° F. or 60° C. using the test methods specified in 40 CFR 261.21. Prohibited materials include, but are not limited to, gasoline, kerosene, fuel oil, naphtha, benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene, xylene, ethers, alcohols, ketones, aldehydes, peroxides, chlorates, perchlorates, bromates, carbides, hydrides and sulfides, and any other substance which the City, the state or the EPA has notified the user is a fire or explosion hazard to the system.
 - (2) Solid or viscous substances, either whole or ground, in quantities or of such size capable of causing obstruction to the flow in sewers or other interference with the proper operation of the wastewater facilities, such as, but not limited to, ashes, cinders, disposable diapers, glass grinding or polishing wastes, sand, mud, straw, shavings, metal, glass, rags, feathers, tar, plastic, wood, unground garbage, whole blood, paunch manure, hair and fleshings, bones, entrails, sanitary napkins, paper dishes, cups, milk containers, other paper products, grass clippings, gas, beer or distillery slops, residues, chemical or paint residues and bulk solids.
 - (3) Any waters or wastes having a pH lower than 5.0 or greater than 9.5 or having any other corrosive property capable of causing damage or hazard to structures, equipment and personnel of the wastewater facilities.
 - (4) Any wastewater containing toxic pollutants in sufficient quantity, either singly or by interaction with other pollutants, to injure or interfere with any wastewater treatment process, constitute a hazard to humans or animals, create a toxic effect in the receiving waters of the City's Wastewater Treatment Plant, or exceed the limitation set forth in a categorical pretreatment standard. A toxic pollutant shall include, but not be limited to, any pollutant identified pursuant to Section 307(a) of the Act.
 - (5) Any substance which results in the presence of toxic gases, vapors or fumes within the wastewater facilities in a quantity that may cause a public nuisance or hazard to life or acute worker health and safety problems.
 - (6) Any substance which may cause the City's Wastewater Treatment Plant's effluent or any other product of the wastewater treatment plant, such as residues, sludges or scums, to be unsuitable for

reclamation and reuse or to interfere with the reclamation process. In no case shall a substance discharged to the wastewater treatment plant cause the wastewater treatment plant to be in noncompliance with sludge use or disposal criteria, guidelines or regulations developed under Section 405 of the Act, any criteria, guidelines or regulations affecting sludge use or disposal developed pursuant to the Solid Waste Disposal Act, the Clean Air Act, or the Toxic Substances Control Act, or state criteria applicable to the sludge management method being used.

- (7) Any substance which will cause the wastewater treatment plant to violate its WPDES and/or state disposal system permit or the receiving water quality standards.
- (8) Any wastewater with objectionable color not removed in the wastewater treatment process, such as, but not limited to, dye wastes and vegetable tanning solutions.
- (9) Any wastewater having a temperature which will inhibit biological activity in the wastewater treatment plant resulting in interference, but in no case wastewater with a temperature at the introduction into the wastewater treatment plant which exceeds 40° C. (104° F.) unless the wastewater treatment plant is designed to accommodate such temperature.
- (10) Any pollutants, including oxygen-demanding pollutants (BOD, etc.), released at a flow rate and/or pollutant concentration so as to constitute a slug and/or may cause interference to the wastewater treatment plant.
- (11) Any wastewater containing any radioactive wastes or isotopes of such half-life or concentration as may exceed limits established by the Water Systems Manager in compliance with applicable state or federal regulations.
- (12) Any wastewater which causes a hazard to human life or creates a public nuisance.
- (13) Any water or waste containing fats, wax, grease, petroleum oil, nonbiodegradable cutting oil, or products of mineral oil origin, whether emulsified or not, in excess of 100 mg/l or containing substances which may solidify or become viscous at temperatures between 32° and 140° F. (0° and 60° C.).

D. Specific pollutant limitations.

- (1) The following are the maximum concentrations acceptable for discharge into the City of Watertown sewer system:

Recommended Pollutant Limitations

Pollutant	Concentration (mg/l)
Arsenic	0.15
Cadmium	0.50
Chromium	2.6
Copper	1.5
Cyanide	2.3
Lead	0.5
Mercury	<0.0002
Molybdenum	0.1
Nickel	3.5
Selenium	0.24
Silver	5.0
Zinc	5.0

- (2) Effluent limitations promulgated by federal or state authorities shall apply in any instance where they are more stringent. Dilution of any wastewater discharge for the purpose of satisfying these requirements shall be considered a violation of this chapter.

- E. Hauled wastes. The City may allow wastewater which is hauled via truck or other conveyance to be discharged to the wastewater facilities. All discharges, including trucked or hauled pollutants, to the sewer shall be as regulated by a sewer use permit/written agreement. Prior to such discharge, the City may require a written report from the hauler describing the quantity, source of wastewater, laboratory analysis of the pollutants/constituents, and other information as deemed necessary by the City. The City shall require that written permission and discharge conditions be issued by the City to the hauler prior to discharge of any hauled wastewater.
- F. Interceptors. Grease, oil or sand interceptors shall be provided in accordance with § **419-8P** of this Code. Those businesses required by state law to have a grease trap and which fail to maintain them by clearing them out regularly when full shall be fined \$300 per event. Each business shall keep a maintenance log on its grease traps.
- G. Preliminary treatment facilities. Where preliminary treatment, flow-equalization facilities or interceptors are provided for any wastewater, they shall be effectively operated and maintained continuously in satisfactory and effective condition by the owner at his expense and shall be available for inspection by the authorized representatives of the City at all reasonable times.
- H. Monitoring facilities. The City may require to be provided and operated, at the user's own expense, monitoring facilities to allow inspection, sampling and flow measurement of the user's wastewater(s). The monitoring facility should normally be situated on the user's premises, but the City may, when such a location would be impractical or cause undue hardship on the user, allow the facility to be constructed in the public street or sidewalk area and located so that it will not be obstructed by landscaping or parked vehicles. There shall be ample room in or near such sampling manhole or facility to allow accurate sampling and preparation of samples for analysis. The facility, sampling and measuring equipment shall be maintained at all times in a safe and proper operating condition at the expense of the user. Whether constructed on public or private property, the sampling and monitoring facilities shall be provided in accordance with the City's requirements and all applicable local construction standards and specifications. When required, construction shall be completed within 90 days following written notification by the City.
- I. Inspection and sampling.
 - (1) The City shall inspect the facilities of any user to ascertain whether the purpose of this chapter is being met and all requirements are being complied with. Persons or occupants of premises where wastewater is created or discharged shall allow the City or its representatives ready access at all reasonable times to all parts of the premises for the purposes of inspection, sampling, records examination or in the performance of any of their duties. The City, approval authority and EPA shall have the right to set up on the user's property such devices as are necessary to conduct sampling, inspection, compliance monitoring and/or metering operations. Where a user has security measures in force which would require proper identification and clearance before entry into its premises, the user shall make necessary arrangements with its security personnel so that, upon presentation of suitable identification, personnel from the City, approval authority and EPA will be permitted to enter, without delay, for the purposes of performing their specific responsibilities. In all cases where tests are conducted by the City for the purpose of checking to determine if a previously found violation of this chapter has been corrected, the cost of such tests shall be charged to the user and added to the user's sewer service charge. In those cases where the City determines that the nature or volume of a particular user's wastewater requires more frequent than normal testing, the City may charge such user for the tests, after giving the user 10 days' written notice of its intention to do so, and the cost thereof shall be added to the user's sewer service charge. Where industrial wastes are discharged into a public sewer, for the purpose of determining sewer service charges, the user, at its own expense, shall sample and analyze its discharge and report the test results to the City in accordance with the requirements of the sewer service charge portion of this chapter. All such tests shall be as ordered by the City and shall be conducted by qualified personnel and in accordance with applicable standards. Measurements of strength and volume, for the purpose of determining sewer service charges, shall be made in accordance with § **508-19** of this chapter.
 - (2) A minimum of four grab samples will be used for pH, cyanide, total phenols, oil and grease, sulfide, and volatile organics. For all other pollutants, twenty-four-hour composite samples must be obtained through flow-proportional composite sampling techniques where feasible. The wastewater facilities may waive flow-proportional composite sampling for any industrial discharger that demonstrates that flow-proportional sampling is infeasible. In such cases, samples may be obtained through time-

proportional composite sample techniques or through a minimum of four grab samples where the discharger demonstrates that this will provide a representative sample of the effluent being discharged.

- J. Special agreements. No statement contained in this section shall be construed as preventing any special agreement or arrangement between the City and any industrial concern whereby an individual waste of unusual strength or character, not subject to categorical pretreatment standards, may be accepted by the City for treatment, subject to payment therefor by the industrial concern, in accordance with applicable ordinances and any supplemental agreement with the City.
- K. The Water Systems Manager may require yearly reports by dischargers that discharge industrial waste and toxic and hazardous substances to the City's Wastewater Treatment Plant. Reports would include but not be limited to flow and organic or inorganic compounds that may be present due to the industrial activity at that location.

