

## TITLE 18

### WATER AND SEWERS<sup>1</sup>

#### CHAPTER

#### 1. SEWAGE AND HUMAN EXCRETA DISPOSAL.

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#### SEWAGE AND HUMAN EXCRETA DISPOSAL

#### SECTION

- 18-101. Definitions.
- 18-102. Places required to have sanitary disposal methods.
- 18-103. When a connection to the public sewer is required.
- 18-104. When a septic tank shall be used.
- 18-105. Registration and records of septic tank cleaners, etc.
- 18-106. Use of pit privy or other method of disposal.
- 18-107. Approval and permit required for septic tanks, privies, etc.
- 18-108. Owner to provide disposal facilities.
- 18-109. Occupant to maintain disposal facilities.
- 18-110. Only specified methods of disposal to be used.
- 18-111. Discharge into watercourses restricted.
- 18-112. Pollution of ground water prohibited.
- 18-113. Enforcement of chapter.
- 18-114. Carnivals, circuses, etc.
- 18-115. Violations.

**18-101. Definitions.** The following definitions shall apply in the interpretation of this chapter:

(1) "Accessible sewer." A public sanitary sewer located in a street or alley abutting on the property in question or otherwise within two hundred (200) feet of any boundary of said property measured along the shortest available right-of-way;

(2) "Health officer." The person duly appointed to such position having jurisdiction, or any person or persons authorized to act as his agent;

(3) "Human excreta." The bowel and kidney discharges of human beings;

(4) "Sewage." All water-carried human and household wastes from residences, buildings, or industrial establishments;

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<sup>1</sup>Municipal code references  
Refuse disposal: title 17.

(5) "Approved septic tank system." A watertight covered receptacle of monolithic concrete, either precast or cast in place, constructed according to plans approved by the health officer. Such tanks shall have a capacity of not less than 750 gallons and in the case of homes with more than two (2) bedrooms the capacity of the tank shall be in accordance with the recommendations of the Tennessee Department of Public Health as provided for in its 1967 bulletin entitled "Recommended Guide for Location, Design, and Construction of Septic Tanks and Disposal Fields." A minimum liquid depth of four (4) feet should be provided with a minimum depth of air space above the liquid of one (1) foot. The septic tank dimensions should be such that the length from inlet to outlet is at least twice but not more than three (3) times the width. The liquid depth should not exceed five (5) feet. The discharge from the septic tank shall be disposed of in such a manner that it may not create a nuisance on the surface of the ground or pollute the underground water supply, and such disposal shall be in accordance with recommendations of the health officer as determined by acceptable soil percolation data;

(6) "Sanitary pit privy." A privy having a fly-tight floor and seat over an excavation in earth, located and constructed in such a manner that flies and animals will be excluded, surface water may not enter the pit, and danger of pollution of the surface of the ground or the underground water supply will be prevented;

(7) "Other approved method of sewage disposal." Any privy, chemical toilet, or other toilet device (other than a sanitary sewer, septic tank, or sanitary pit privy as described above) the type, location, and construction of which have been approved by the health officer;

(8) "Watercourse." Any natural or artificial drain which conveys water either continuously or intermittently. (1980 Code, § 8-301)

**18-102. Places required to have sanitary disposal methods.** Every residence, building, or place where human beings reside, assemble, or are employed within the corporate limits shall be required to have a sanitary method for disposal of sewage and human excreta. (1980 Code, § 8-302)

**18-103. When a connection to the public sewer is required.** Wherever an accessible sewer exists and water under pressure is available, approved plumbing facilities shall be provided and the wastes from such facilities shall be discharged through a connection to said sewer made in compliance with the requirements of the official responsible for the public sewerage system. On any lot or premise accessible to the sewer, no other method of sewage disposal shall be employed. (1980 Code, § 8-303)

**18-104. When a septic tank shall be used.** Wherever water carried sewage facilities are installed and their use is permitted by the health officer,

and an accessible sewer does not exist, the wastes from such facilities shall be discharged into an approved septic tank system.

No septic tank or other water-carried sewage disposal system except a connection to a public sewer shall be installed without the approval of the health officer or his duly appointed representative. The design, layout, and construction of such systems shall be in accordance with specifications approved by the health officer and the installation shall be under the general supervision of the department of health. (1980 Code, § 8-304)

**18-105. Registration and records of septic tank cleaners, etc.** Every person, firm, or corporation who operates equipment for the purpose of removing digested sludge from septic tanks, cesspools, privies, and other sewage disposal installations on private or public property must register with the health officer and furnish such records of work done within the corporate limits as may be deemed necessary by the health officer. (1980 Code, § 8-305)

**18-106. Use of pit privy or other method of disposal.** Wherever a sanitary method of human excreta disposal is required under § 18-102 and water-carried sewage facilities are not used, a sanitary pit privy or other approved method of disposal shall be provided. (1980 Code, § 8-306)

**18-107. Approval and permit required for septic tanks, privies, etc.** Any person, firm, or corporation proposing to construct a septic tank system, privy, or other sewage disposal facility, requiring the approval of the health officer under this chapter, shall before the initiation of construction obtain the approval of the health officer for the design and location of the system and secure a permit from the health officer for such system. (1980 Code, § 8-307)

**18-108. Owner to provide disposal facilities.** It shall be the duty of the owner of any property upon which facilities for sanitary sewage or human excreta disposal are required by § 18-102, or the agent of the owner, to provide such facilities. (1980 Code, § 8-308)

**18-109. Occupant to maintain disposal facilities.** It shall be the duty of the occupant, tenant, lessee, or other person in charge to maintain the facilities for sewage disposal in a clean and sanitary condition at all times, and no refuse or other material which may unduly fill up, clog, or otherwise interfere with the operation of such facilities shall be deposited therein. (1980 Code, § 8-309)

**18-110. Only specified methods of disposal to be used.** No sewage or human excreta shall be thrown out, deposited, buried, or otherwise disposed of, except by a sanitary method of disposal as specified in this chapter. (1980 Code, § 8-310)

**18-111. Discharge into watercourses restricted.** No sewage or excreta shall be discharged or deposited into any lake or watercourse except under conditions specified by the health officer and specifically authorized by the Tennessee Stream Pollution Control Board. (1980 Code, § 8-311)

**18-112. Pollution of ground water prohibited.** No sewage effluent from a septic tank, sewage treatment plant, or discharges from any plumbing facility shall empty into any well, either abandoned or constructed for this purpose, cistern, sinkhole, crevice, ditch, or other opening either natural or artificial in any formation which may permit the pollution of ground water. (1980 Code, § 8-312)

**18-113. Enforcement of chapter.** It shall be the duty of the health officer to make an inspection of the methods of disposal of sewage and human excreta as often as is considered necessary to insure full compliance with the terms of this chapter. Written notification of any violation shall be given by the health officer to the person or persons responsible for the correction of the condition, and correction shall be made within forty-five (45) days after notification. If the health officer shall advise any person that the method by which human excreta and sewage is being disposed of constitutes an immediate and serious menace to health, such person shall at once take steps to remove the menace. Failure to remove such menace immediately shall be punishable under the general penalty clause for this code. However, such person shall be allowed the number of days herein provided within which to make permanent correction. (1980 Code, § 8-313)

**18-114. Carnivals, circuses, etc.** Whenever carnivals, circuses, or other transient groups of persons come within the corporate limits, such groups of transients shall provide a sanitary method for disposal of sewage and human excreta. Failure of a carnival, circus, or other transient group to provide such sanitary method of disposal and to make all reasonable changes and corrections proposed by the health officer shall constitute a violation of this section. In these cases the violator shall not be entitled to the notice of forty-five (45) days provided for in the preceding section. (1980 Code, § 8-314)

**18-115. Violations.** Any person, persons, firm, association, or corporation or agent thereof, who shall fail, neglect, or refuse to comply with the provisions of this chapter shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be punishable under the general penalty clause for this code. (1980 Code, § 8-315)