

TITLE 18

WATER AND SEWERS

CHAPTER

1. SEWAGE DISPOSAL.
2. CROSS-CONNECTIONS, AUXILIARY INTAKES, ETC.

CHAPTER 1

SEWAGE 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.

(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.

(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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

18-106. Use of pit privy or other method of disposal. Wherever a sanitary method of human excreta disposal is required under section 18-202 and water-carried sewage facilities are not used, a sanitary pit privy or other approved method of disposal shall be provided.

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.

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 section 18-102, or the agent of the owner to provide such facilities.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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, and failure to remove such menace immediately shall be punishable under the general penalty clause for this code; but such person shall be allowed the number of days herein provided within which to make permanent correction.

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.

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.

CHAPTER 2

CROSS-CONNECTIONS, AUXILIARY INTAKES, ETC.

SECTION

- 18-201. Definitions.
- 18-202. Regulated.
- 18-203. Statement required.
- 18-204. Violations.

18-201. Definitions. The following definitions and terms shall apply in the interpretation and enforcement of this chapter.

(1) "Public water supply." The water works system furnishing water to the municipality for general use and which supply is recognized as the public water supply by the Tennessee Department of Public Health.

(2) "Cross-connection." Any physical connection whereby the public water supply is connected with any other water supply system, whether public or private, either inside or outside of any building or buildings, in such manner that a flow of water into the public water supply is possible either through the manipulation of valves or because of ineffective check or back pressure valves, or because of any other arrangement.

(3) "Auxiliary intake." Any piping connection or other device whereby water may be secured from a source other than that normally used.

(4) "By-pass." Any system of piping or other arrangement whereby the water may be diverted around any part or portion of a water purification plant.

(5) "Interconnection." Any system of piping or other arrangement whereby the public water supply is connected directly with a sewer, drain, conduit, pool storage reservoir, or other device which normally contains sewage or other waste or liquid which would be capable of importing contamination to the public water supply.

(6) "Person." Any and all persons, natural or artificial, including any individual firm or association, and any municipal or private corporation organized or existing under the laws of this or any other state or county.

18-202. Regulated. It shall be unlawful for any person to cause a cross-connection, auxiliary intake, by-pass, or interconnection to be made, or allow one to exist for any purpose whatsoever unless the construction and operation of same have been approved by the Tennessee Department of Public Health, and the operation of such cross-connection, auxiliary intake, by-pass, or interconnection is at all times under the direct supervision of the superintendent of the water works of this municipality.

18-203. Statement required. Any person whose premises are supplied with water from the public water supply, and who also has on the same

premises a separate source of water supply, or stores water in an uncovered or insanitary storage reservoir from which the water stored therein is circulated through a piping system, shall file with the superintendent of the water works, a statement of the non-existence of unapproved or unauthorized cross-connections, auxiliary intakes, by-passes, or interconnections. Such statement shall also contain an agreement that no cross-connection, auxiliary intake, by-pass, or interconnection will be permitted upon the premises until the construction and operation of some have received the approval of the Tennessee Department of Public Health, and the operation and maintenance of some have been placed under the direct supervision of the superintendent of the water works.

18-204. Violations. Any person who now has cross-connections, auxiliary intakes, by-passes, or interconnections in violation of the provisions of this chapter shall be allowed a reasonable time within which to comply with such provisions. After a thorough investigation of existing conditions and an appraisal of the time required to complete the work, the amount of time to be allowed shall be designated by the superintendent of the water works. In addition to, or in lieu of any fines and penalties that may be judicially assessed for violations of this chapter, the superintendent of the water works shall discontinue the public water supply service at any premises upon which there is found to be a cross-connection, auxiliary intake, by-pass, or interconnection, and service shall not be restored until such cross-connection, auxiliary intake, by-pass, or interconnection has been discontinued.