

TITLE 17

REFUSE AND TRASH DISPOSAL<sup>1</sup>

CHAPTER  
1. REFUSE.

CHAPTER 1

REFUSE

SECTION

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17-101. Definitions. (1) "Ashes." The term "ashes" shall include the waste products from coal, wood, and other fuels used for cooking and heating from all public and private residences and establishments.

(2) "Collector." The term "collector," shall mean any person, firm, or corporation that collects, transports, or disposes of any refuse within the corporate limits of the Town of Decatur.

(3) "Garbage." The term "garbage," shall include all putrescible wastes, except sewage and body wastes, including vegetable and animal offal and carcasses of dead animals, but excluding recognizable industrial by products, from all public and private residences and establishments.

(4) "Health officer." The term "health officer," shall mean the health authority of the Town of Decatur or its authorized representative.

(5) "Refuse." The term, "refuse," as hereinafter referred to in this chapter shall include garbage, rubbish, ashes, and all other putrescible and non-putrescible, combustible and non-combustible materials originating from the preparation, cooking and consumption of food, market refuse, waste from the handling and sale of produce and other similar unwanted materials, but shall

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<sup>1</sup>Municipal code reference  
Property maintenance regulations: title 13.

not include sewage, body wastes, or recognizable industrial by-products, from all residences and establishments, public and private.

(6) "Rubbish." The term "rubbish," shall include all non-putrescible waste materials except ashes from all public and private residences and establishments. (1970 Code, § 8-101)

17-102. Designation of health officer. The Health Officer for the Town of Decatur shall be the Director of Public Health, State of Tennessee, for Meigs County and Decatur, or his authorized representative, and the director of public health shall furnish the town officials with a list of his representatives who are authorized to enforce this chapter. (1970 Code, § 8-102)

17-103. Premises to be kept clean. All persons, firms, and corporations within the corporate limits of the Town of Decatur are hereby required to keep their premises in a clean and sanitary condition, free from accumulations of refuse, offal, filth, and trash. Such persons, firms and corporations are hereby required to store such refuse in sanitary containers and to dispose of such material in a manner prescribed by the health officer so as not to cause a nuisance or become injurious to the public health and welfare. (1970 Code, § 8-103)

17-104. Accumulation of refuse. Each owner, occupant, tenant, subtenant, lessee or others, using or occupying any building, house, structure, or grounds within the corporate limits of the Town of Decatur, where refuse materials or substances as defined in this chapter accumulate or are likely to accumulate, shall provide an adequate number of suitable containers of a type approved by the health officer, for the storage of such refuse. The containers shall be maintained in a clean and sanitary manner and shall be thoroughly cleaned by washing or other methods as often as necessary to prevent the breeding of flies and the occurrence of offensive odors. (1970 Code, § 8-104)

17-105. Disposal of refuse, garbage, and rubbish. All disposal of refuse, garbage, and rubbish shall be by methods approved by the health officer. The disposal of any refuse in any quantity by an individual, householder, establishment, firm, or corporation in any place in the town, public or private, is expressly prohibited without the prior approval of the health officer. (1970 Code, § 8-105)

17-106. Burning or dumping in streams, sewers, drains, ditches, streets, and alleys prohibited. It shall be unlawful for any person, firm, or corporation to dump refuse, rubbish, and garbage in any form into any stream, ditch, storm sewer, street, or other place of this nature in the Town of Decatur.

It shall be unlawful for any person, firm, or corporation to burn any refuse, rubbish, or garbage in any stream, ditch, drain, street, or alley of the town without the approval of the health officer.

The burning of any refuse, rubbish, or garbage on private property within the town shall be under the supervision and approval of the health officer.<sup>1</sup> (1970 Code, § 8-106)

17-107. Permits required for business of collecting garbage and refuse. No person, firm, or corporation shall engage in the business of collecting refuse, garbage, and rubbish or removing the contents of any refuse container (other than the owner of such container) for any purpose whatsoever, who does not possess a permit to do so from the health officer or the mayor of the town. Such permit shall be issued without charge and may be issued only after the applicant's capability of complying with the requirements of this chapter has been fully determined. Such permit may be revoked or suspended upon violation of any of the terms of this chapter. (1970 Code, § 8-107)

17-108. Collection of vehicles. The health officer shall prescribe provisions and requirements of collection vehicles to prevent the scattering of refuse over the streets and thoroughfares of the town. (1970 Code, § 8-108)

17-109. Notice of violations. It shall be the duty of the health officer or his authorized representative to inform the owners, occupants, tenants, or lessee of such properties when violations of this chapter are known to exist, and request that such violations be corrected within a reasonable time to be specified by the health officer.

Should the violation not be corrected within the time specified by the health officer, the health officer shall give the violator a written notice requiring the violation to be corrected within thirty (30) days. A copy of the written notice shall be furnished the mayor and chief of police.

Should there be a continuance of the violation after the issuance of the written notice and the expiration of the thirty (30) day period, it shall be the duty of the health officer to secure a warrant of arrest for the violation of this chapter. (1970 Code, § 8-109)

17-110. Penalties. Any person who shall violate any of the provisions of this chapter, or who shall fail or refuse to obey any notice issued by the health officer or his authorized representative, with reference to storage, accumulation, or disposal of waste, refuse, garbage, and rubbish, or the collection thereof, described in this chapter shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be subject

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<sup>1</sup>Municipal code reference  
Open burning: § 13-106.

to punishment under the general penalty clause of this code. (1970 Code, § 8-110)