

## TITLE 18

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

#### CHAPTER

1. WATER.
2. SEWAGE AND HUMAN EXCRETA DISPOSAL.
3. CROSS CONNECTIONS, AUXILIARY INTAKES, ETC.

#### CHAPTER 1

#### WATER

#### SECTION

- 18-101. Application and scope.
- 18-102. Definitions.
- 18-103. Connection to water system required.
- 18-104. Application and contract for service.
- 18-105. Connection charges.
- 18-106. Water main extensions.
- 18-107. Water main extension variances.
- 18-108. Customer billing and payment policy.
- 18-109. Termination or refusal of service.
- 18-110. Termination of service by customer.
- 18-111. Access to customers' premises.
- 18-112. Inspections.
- 18-113. Customer's responsibility for system's property.
- 18-114. Customer's responsibility for violations.
- 18-115. Supply and resale of water.
- 18-116. Unauthorized use of or interference with water supply.
- 18-117. Damages to property due to water pressure.
- 18-118. Liability for cutoff failures.
- 18-119. Restricted use of water.
- 18-120. Interruption of service.
- 18-121. Schedule of rates.
- 18-122. Establishment of application fees and security deposits.

**18-101. Application and scope.** The provisions of this chapter are a part of all contracts for receiving water service from the town and shall apply

---

<sup>1</sup>Municipal code references

Building, utility and residential codes: title 12.

Refuse disposal: title 17.

whether the service is based upon contract, agreement, signed application, or otherwise. (1993 Code, § 13-101)

**18-102. Definitions.** (1) "Customer" means any person, firm, or corporation who receives water service from the town under either an express or implied contract.

(2) "Dwelling" means any single structure, with auxiliary buildings, occupied by one (1) or more persons or households for residential purposes.

(3) "Premise" means any structure or group of structures operated as a single business or enterprise, provided, however, the term "premise" shall not include more than one (1) dwelling.

(4) "Service line" shall consist of the pipe line extending from any water main of the town to private property. (1993 Code, § 13-102)

**18-103. Connection to water system required.** Any person and/or entity who acquires an existing commercial or residential property within corporate limits is required to ascertain whether the acquired property is connected to and is utilizing the water system as its primary source of water supply.

(1) Should the acquired property not be connected to the water system, the person and/or entity acquiring said property shall be responsible for engaging in, or arranging for and accomplishing, all acts necessary to connect that property to the water system in a fully operational manner within thirty (30) days of acquiring the property.

(2) Upon connection of the acquired property to the town water system, or the ascertainment by the acquiring person and/or entity that the property is connected to the town water system and that the town water system is fully operational in the acquired property, the acquiring person and or entity shall ensure that the primary source of water for that property is acquired through the town water system at such rates as are applicable.

In the interest of public health and safety, the purpose of this section is to assist in adequate fire protection, and to ensure that all water used/consumed within a commercial building or private residence is obtained from a safe, regulated, and monitored source.

The section is applicable upon the sale, transfer lease, donation, or other means of conveyance from one (1) person and/or entity to another person and/or entity of any commercial or residential building located within the corporate limits of the town. (Ord. #98-01, Feb. 1998)

**18-104. Application and contract for service.** Each prospective customer desiring water service will be required to sign a standard form contract.

The receipt of a prospective customer's application for service shall not obligate the town to render the service applied for. If the service applied for

cannot be supplied in accordance with the provisions of this chapter, the town shall have no liability. (1993 Code, § 13-103)

**18-105. Connection charges.** Service lines will be laid by the town from mains to the property line at the expense of the applicant for service. The location of such lines will be determined by the town.

All applicants for water service shall pay such connection charges and application fees as the town may from time to time prescribe by resolution prior to installation.

When a service line is completed, the town shall be responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of such service line from the main to the property line. The remaining portion of the service line beyond the property line shall belong to and be the responsibility of the customer. (1993 Code, § 13-104, as amended by Ord. #2006-01, Feb. 2006)

**18-106. Water main extensions.** Persons desiring water main extensions must pay all of the cost of making such extensions.

All such extensions shall be installed either by town forces or by other forces working directly under the supervision of the town in accordance with plans and specifications prepared by an engineer registered with the State of Tennessee.

Upon completion of such extensions and their approval by the town, such water mains shall become the property of the town. The persons paying the cost of constructing such mains shall execute any written instruments requested by the town to provide evidence of the town's title to such mains. In consideration of such mains being transferred to it, the town shall incorporate said mains as an integral part of the municipal water system and shall furnish water service therefrom in accordance with these rules and regulations, subject always to such limitations as may exist because of the size and elevation of the mains. (1993 Code, § 13-105)

**18-107. Water main extension variances.** Whenever the board of mayor and aldermen is of the opinion that it is to the best interest of the town and its inhabitants to construct a water main extension without requiring strict compliance with the preceding section, such extension may be constructed upon such terms and conditions as shall be approved by the board of mayor and aldermen.

The authority to make water main extensions under the preceding section is permissive only and nothing contained therein shall be construed as requiring the town to make such extensions or to furnish service to any person or persons. (1993 Code, § 13-106)

**18-108. Customer billing and payment policy.** Water bills shall be rendered monthly and shall designate a standard net payment period for all

members of not less than ten (10) days after the date of the bill. Failure to receive a bill will not release a customer from payment obligation. There is established for all members a late payment charge not to exceed ten percent (10%) for any portion of the bill paid after the net payment period.

Payment must be received in the water department no later than 4:30 P.M. on the due date. If the due date falls on Saturday, Sunday, or a holiday, net payment will be accepted if paid on the next business day no later than 4:30 P.M. (1993 Code, § 13-107)

**18-109. Termination or refusal of service.** (1) Basis of termination or refusal. The town shall have the right to discontinue water service or to refuse to connect service for a violation of, or a failure to comply with, any of the following:

- (a) These rules and regulations, including the nonpayment of bills.
- (b) The customer's application for service.
- (c) The customer's contract for service.

The right to discontinue service shall apply to all water services received through collective single connections or services, even though more than one (1) customer or tenant is furnished services therefrom, and even though the delinquency or violation is limited to only one (1) such customer or tenant.

(2) Termination of service. Reasonable written notice shall be given to the customer before termination of water service according to the following terms and conditions:

- (a) Written notice of termination (cut-off) shall be given to the customer at least five (5) days prior to the scheduled date of termination. The cut-off notice shall specify the reason for the cut-off, and
  - (i) The amount due, including other charges.
  - (ii) The last date to avoid service termination.
  - (iii) Notification of the customer's right to a hearing prior to service termination, and, in the case of nonpayment of bills, of the availability of special counseling for emergency and hardship cases.

(b) In the case of termination for nonpayment of bills, the employee carrying out the termination procedure will attempt before disconnecting service to contact the customer at the premises in a final effort to collect payment and avoid termination. If the customer is not at home, service may be left connected for one (1) additional day and a further notice left at a location conspicuous to the customer.

(c) Hearings for service termination, including for nonpayment of bills, will be held by appointment at the company office between the hours of 8:00 A.M. and 4:30 P.M. on any business day, or by special request and appointment a hearing may be scheduled outside those hours.

(d) Termination will not be made on any preceding day when the water department is scheduled to be closed.

(e) If a customer does not request a hearing, or, in the case of nonpayment of a bill, does not make payment of the bill, or does not otherwise correct the problem that resulted in the notice of termination in a manner satisfactory to the water department, the same shall proceed on schedule with service termination.

(f) Service termination for any reason shall be reconnected only after the payment of all charges due or satisfactory arrangements for payment have been made, or the correction of the problem that resulted in the termination of service in a manner satisfactory to the water department, plus the payment of a reconnection charge of forty dollars (\$40.00). (1993 Code, § 13-108, as amended by Ord. #2002-03, June 2002)

**18-110. Termination of service by customer.** Customers who have fulfilled their contract terms and wish to discontinue service must give at least three (3) days written notice to that effect unless the contract specifies otherwise. Notice to discontinue service prior to the expiration of a contract term will not relieve the customer from any minimum or guaranteed payment under such contract or applicable rate schedule.

When service is being furnished to an occupant of premises under a contract not in the occupant's name, the town reserves the right to impose the following conditions on the right of the customer to discontinue service under such a contract:

(1) Written notice of the customer's desire for such service to be discontinued may be required; and the town shall have the right to continue such service for a period of not to exceed ten (10) days after receipt of such written notice, during which time the customer shall be responsible for all charges for such service. If the town should continue service after such ten (10) day period subsequent to the receipt of the customer's written notice to discontinue service, the customer shall not be responsible for charges for any service furnished after the expiration of the ten (10) day period.

(2) During the ten (10) day period, the occupant of premises to which service has been ordered discontinued by a customer other than such occupant, may be allowed by the town to enter into a contract for service in the occupant's own name upon the occupant's complying with these rules and regulations with respect to a new application for service. (1993 Code, § 13-109)

**18-111. Access to customers' premises.** The town's identified representatives and employees shall be granted access to all customers' premises at all reasonable times for the purpose of reading meters, for testing, inspecting, repairing, removing, and replacing all equipment belonging to the town, and for inspecting customers' plumbing and premises generally in order to secure compliance with these rules and regulations. (1993 Code, § 13-110)

**18-112. Inspections.** The town shall have the right, but shall not be obligated, to inspect any installation or plumbing system before water service is furnished or at any later time. The town reserves the right to refuse service or to discontinue service to any premises not in compliance with any special contract, these rules and regulations, or other requirements of the town.

Any failure to inspect or reject a customer's installation or plumbing system shall not render the town liable or responsible for any loss or damage which might have been avoided had such inspection or rejection been made. (1993 Code, § 13-111)

**18-113. Customer's responsibility for system's property.** Except as herein elsewhere expressly provided, all service connections, and other equipment furnished by or for the town shall be and remain the property of the town. Each customer shall provide space for and exercise proper care to protect the property of the town on his premises. In the event of loss or damage to such property arising from the neglect of a customer to care for it properly, the cost of necessary repairs or replacements shall be paid by the customer. (1993 Code, § 13-112)

**18-114. Customer's responsibility for violations.** Where the town furnishes water service to a customer, such customer shall be responsible for all violations of these rules and regulations which occur on the premises so served. Personal participation by the customer in any such violations shall not be necessary to impose such personal responsibility on him. (1993 Code, § 13-113)

**18-115. Supply and resale of water.** All water shall be supplied within the town exclusively by the town, and no customer shall, directly or indirectly, sell, sublet, assign, or otherwise dispose of the water or any part thereof except with written permission from the town.

As used in this section, "well" shall mean any excavation or opening into the ground made by digging, boring, drilling, driving or other method for the purpose of obtaining water.

It shall be unlawful for anyone to make, drill or dig a well for potable water within the town limits. (1993 Code, § 13-114, as amended by Ord. #1996-1, April 1996)

**18-116. Unauthorized use of or interference with water supply.** No person shall turn on or turn off any of the town's stop cocks, valves, hydrants, spigots, or fire plugs without permission or authority from the town. (1993 Code, § 13-115)

**18-117. Damages to property due to water pressure.** The town shall not be liable to any customer for damages caused to his plumbing or property by

high pressure, low pressure, or fluctuations in pressure in the town's water mains. (1993 Code, § 13-116)

**18-118. Liability for cutoff failures.** The town's liability shall be limited to the forfeiture of the right to charge a customer for water that is not used but is received from a service line under any of the following circumstances:

(1) After receipt of at least ten (10) days' written notice to cut off water service, the town has failed to cut off such service.

(2) The town has attempted to cut off a service but such service has not been completely cut off.

(3) The town has completely cut off a service but subsequently the cutoff develops a leak or is turned on again so that water enters the customer's pipes from the town's main.

Except to the extent stated above, the town shall not be liable for any loss or damage resulting from cutoff failures. If a customer wishes to avoid possible damage for cutoff failures, the customer shall rely exclusively on privately owned cutoffs and not on the town's cutoff. Also, the customer (and not the town) shall be responsible for seeing that his plumbing is properly drained and is kept properly drained, after his water service has been cut off. (1993 Code, § 13-117)

**18-119. Restricted use of water.** In times of emergencies or in times of water shortage, the town reserves the right to restrict the purposes for which water may be used by a customer and the amount of water which a customer may use. (1993 Code, § 13-118)

**18-120. Interruption of service.** The town will endeavor to furnish continuous water service, but does not guarantee to the customer any fixed pressure or continuous service. The town shall not be liable for any damages for any interruption of service whatsoever.

In connection with the operation, maintenance, repair, and extension of the municipal water system, the water supply may be shut off without notice when necessary or desirable, and each customer must be prepared for such emergencies. The town shall not be liable for any damages from such interruption of service or for damages from the resumption of service without notice after any such interruption. (1993 Code, § 13-119)

**18-121. Schedule of rates.** All water service shall be furnished under such rate schedules as the town may from time to time adopt by appropriate ordinance or resolution.<sup>1</sup> (1993 Code, § 13-120)

---

<sup>1</sup>Administrative ordinances and regulations are of record in the office of the town recorder.

**18-122. Establishment of application fees and security deposits.**

(1) Application fee for water service. The board of mayor and aldermen hereby establish that all applicants for municipal water service shall pay to the town a fee of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) to recover the town's cost of creating the new customer account. Such fee shall be non-refundable and non-transferable.

(2) Deposit required to obtain water service. All applicants for municipal water service shall pay to the Town of La Grange a refundable deposit of one hundred twenty-five dollars (\$125.00) to assure the customer's compliance with all rules and regulations of the La Grange municipal water utility. Upon termination of service, the customer shall be eligible for a refund of the deposit without interest, less any amounts owed to the municipal water utility. (Ord. #2013-05, Dec. 2013)



## CHAPTER 2

### SEWAGE AND HUMAN EXCRETA DISPOSAL<sup>1</sup>

#### SECTION

- 18-201. Definitions.
- 18-202. Places required to have sanitary disposal methods.
- 18-203. When a septic tank shall be used.
- 18-204. Registration and records of septic tank cleaners, etc.
- 18-205. Approval and permit required for septic tanks, privies, etc.
- 18-206. Owner to provide disposal facilities.
- 18-207. Occupant to maintain disposal facilities.
- 18-208. Only specified methods of disposal to be used.
- 18-209. Discharge into watercourses restricted.
- 18-210. Pollution of ground water prohibited.
- 18-211. Enforcement of chapter.
- 18-212. Carnivals, circuses, etc.
- 18-213. Violations.

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

(1) "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 seven hundred fifty (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 Environment and Conservation 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 feet (4') should be provided with a minimum depth of air space above the liquid of one foot (1'). 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 feet (5'). 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 recommendation of the health officer as determined by acceptable soil percolation data.

---

<sup>1</sup>Municipal code references

Plumbing code: title 12.

Water and sewer system administration: title 18.

Wastewater treatment: title 18.

(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) "Watercourse." Any natural or artificial drain which conveys water either continuously or intermittently. (1993 Code, § 8-301, modified)

**18-202. 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 water carried sewage facilities. (1993 Code, § 8-302)

**18-203. 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 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. (1993 Code, § 8-303)

**18-204. 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. (1993 Code, § 8-304)

**18-205. 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. (1993 Code, § 8-305)

**18-206. 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 § 18-202, or the agent of the owner, to provide such facilities. (1993 Code, § 8-306)

**18-207. 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. (1993 Code, § 8-307)

**18-208. 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. (1993 Code, § 8-308)

**18-209. 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 Department of Environment and Conservation Division of Water Pollution Control. (1993 Code, § 8-309, modified)

**18-210. 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, cistern, sinkhole, crevice, ditch, or other opening, either natural or artificial, in any formation which may permit the pollution of ground water. (1993 Code, § 8-310)

**18-211. 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. (1993 Code, § 8-311)

**18-212. 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. (1993 Code, § 8-312)

**18-213. 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. (1993 Code, § 8-313)

**CHAPTER 3****CROSS CONNECTIONS, AUXILIARY INTAKES, ETC.**<sup>1</sup>**SECTION**

- 18-301. Definitions.
- 18-302. Standards.
- 18-303. Construction, operation, and supervision.
- 18-304. Statement required.
- 18-305. Inspections required.
- 18-306. Right of entry for inspections.
- 18-307. Correction of existing violations.
- 18-308. Use of protective devices.
- 18-309. Unpotable water to be labeled.
- 18-310. Violations.

**18-301. Definitions.** The following definitions and terms shall apply in the interpretation and enforcement of this chapter:

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

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

(3) "Cross connection." Any physical arrangement whereby a public water supply is connected, directly or indirectly, with any other water supply system, sewer, drain, conduit, pool, storage reservoir, plumbing fixture, or other device which contains, or may contain, contaminated water, sewage, or other waste or liquid of unknown or unsafe quality which may be capable of imparting contamination to the public water supply as a result of backflow. Bypass arrangements, jumper connections, removable sections, swivel or changeover devices through which, or because of which, backflow could occur are considered to be cross connections.

(4) "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 does or may contain sewage or other waste or liquid which would be capable of imparting contamination to the public water supply.

(5) "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 country.

---

<sup>1</sup>Municipal code reference

Building and plumbing code: title 12.

(6) "Public water supply." The waterworks system furnishing water to the town for general use and which supply is recognized as the public water supply by the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation. (1993 Code, § 8-401, modified)

**18-302. Standards.** The municipal public water supply is to comply with Tennessee Code Annotated, §§ 68-221-701 through 68-221-720 as well as the Rules and Regulations for Public Water Supplies, legally adopted in accordance with this code, which pertain to cross connections, auxiliary intakes, bypasses, and interconnections, and establish an effective ongoing program to control these undesirable water uses. (1993 Code, § 8-402)

**18-303. Construction, operation, and supervision.** It shall be unlawful for any person to cause a cross connection 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 Environment and Conservation and the operation of such cross connection, auxiliary intake, bypass or interconnection is at all times under the direct supervision of the mayor or his representative. (1993 Code, § 8-403, modified)

**18-304. 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 unsanitary storage reservoir from which the water stored therein is circulated through a piping system, shall file with the Superintendent of Water Works of the Town of La Grange a statement of the non-existence of unapproved or unauthorized cross connections, auxiliary intakes, bypasses, or interconnections. Such statement shall also contain an agreement that no cross connection, auxiliary intake, bypass, or interconnection will be permitted upon the premises.

The aforementioned statement shall be submitted to the superintendent of the water works prior to installation of a well for non-potable use. The statement form shall also include the owner's name, signature and property address on which the well would be drilled, and the name, address, telephone number of the installer, license number and well tag number. The superintendent of water works shall issue a permit which indicates receipt of the aforementioned information, all aspects being required prior to the issuance of an approved permit to drill the well. The fee for the permit shall be set solely by the board of mayor and aldermen and from time to time revised as the need dictates. (1993 Code, § 8-404, as amended by Ord. #1998-03, Oct. 1998)

**18-305. Inspections required.** It shall be the duty of the Town of La Grange Public Water Supply to cause inspections to be made of all properties served by the public water supply where cross connections with the public water supply are deemed possible. The frequency of inspections and reinspection,

based on potential health hazards involved, shall be established by the superintendent of water works and as approved by the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation. (1993 Code, § 8-405, modified)

**18-306. Right of entry for inspections.** The superintendent of water works or his authorized representative shall have the right to enter, at any reasonable time, any property served by a connection to the public water supply for the purpose of inspecting the piping system or systems therein for cross connections, auxiliary intakes, bypasses, or interconnections. On request, the owner, lessee, or occupant of any property so served shall furnish to the inspection agency any pertinent information regarding the piping system or systems on such property. The refusal of such information or refusal of access, when requested, shall be deemed evidence of the presence of cross connections. (1993 Code, § 8-406)

**18-307. Correction of existing violations.** Any person who now has cross connections, auxiliary intakes, bypasses, or interconnections in violation of the provisions of this chapter shall be allowed a reasonable time within which to comply with the provisions of this chapter. After a thorough investigation of existing conditions and an appraisal of the time required to complete the work, the amount of time shall be designated by the superintendent of water works.

The failure to correct conditions threatening the safety of the public water system as prohibited by this chapter and the Tennessee Code Annotated, § 68-221-711, within a reasonable time and within the time limits set by the superintendent of water works shall be grounds for denial of water service. If proper protection has not been provided after a reasonable time, the superintendent of water works shall give the customer legal notification that water service is to be discontinued and shall physically separate the public water supply from the customer's on-site piping system in such a manner that the two systems cannot again be connected by an unauthorized person.

Where cross connections, interconnections, auxiliary intakes, or bypasses are found that constitute an extreme hazard of immediate concern of contaminating the public water system, the management of the water supply shall require that immediate corrective action be taken to eliminate the threat to the public water system. Immediate steps shall be taken to disconnect the public water supply from the on-site piping system unless the imminent hazard(s) is (are) corrected immediately. (1993 Code, § 8-407)

**18-308. Use of protective devices.** Where the nature of use of the water supplied a premises by the water department is such that it is deemed:

- (1) Impractical to provide an effective air-gap separation;
- (2) That the owner and/or occupant of the premises cannot, or is not willing, to demonstrate to the superintendent of water works, or his designated

representative, that the water use and protective features of the plumbing are such as to propose no threat to the safety or potability of the water supply;

(3) That the nature and mode of operation within a premises are such that frequent alterations are made to the plumbing;

(3) There is a likelihood that protective measures may be subverted, altered, or disconnected, the superintendent of water works or his designated representative, shall require the use of an approved protective device on the service line serving the premises to assure that any contamination that may originate in the customer's premises is contained therein. The protective device shall be a reduced pressure zone type backflow preventer approved by the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation as to manufacture, model, and size. The method of installation of backflow protective devices shall be approved by the superintendent of water works prior to installation and shall comply with the criteria set forth by the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation. The installation shall be at the expense of the owner or occupant of the premises.

Personnel of the municipal public water supply shall have the right to inspect and test the device or devices on an annual basis or whenever deemed necessary by the superintendent of water works or his designated representative. Water service shall not be disrupted to test the device without the knowledge of the occupant of the premises.

Where the use of water is critical to the continuance of normal operations or protection of life, property, or equipment, duplicate units shall be provided to avoid the necessity of discontinuing water service to test or repair the protective device or devices. Where it is found that only one (1) unit has been installed and the continuance of service is critical, the superintendent of water works shall notify, in writing, the occupant of the premises of plans to discontinue water service and arrange for a mutually acceptable time to test and/or repair the device. The superintendent of water works shall require the occupant of the premises to make all repairs indicated promptly, to keep the unit(s) working properly, and the expense of such repairs shall be borne by the owner or occupant of the premises. Repairs shall be made by qualified personnel acceptable to the superintendent of water works.

The failure to maintain backflow prevention devices in proper working order shall be grounds for discontinuing water service to a premises. Likewise, the removal, bypassing, or altering of the protective devices or the installation thereof so as to render the devices ineffective shall constitute grounds for discontinuance of water service. Water service to such premises shall not be restored until the customer has corrected or eliminated such conditions or defects to the satisfaction of the superintendent of water works. (1993 Code, § 8-408)

**18-309. Unpotable water to be labeled.** In order that the potable water supply made available to premises served by the public water supply shall



be protected from possible contamination as specified herein, any water outlet which could be used for potable or domestic purposes and which is not supplied by the potable system must be labeled in a conspicuous manner as:

WATER UNSAFE  
FOR DRINKING

The minimum acceptable sign shall have black letters at least one inch (1") high located on a red background. (1993 Code, § 8-409)

**18-310. Violations.** The requirements contained herein shall apply to all premises served by the town water system whether located inside or outside the corporate limits and are hereby made a part of the conditions required to be met for the town to provide water services to any premises. Such action, being essential for the protection of the water distribution system against the entrance of contamination which may render the water unsafe healthwise, or otherwise undesirable, shall be enforced rigidly without regard to location of the premises, whether inside or outside the corporate limits.

Any person who neglects or refuses to comply with any of the provisions of this chapter shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction therefor, shall be fined under the general penalty clause for this municipal code of ordinances. (1993 Code, § 8-410)