

CHAPTER 105

SOLID WASTE CONTROL

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105.01 PURPOSE. The purpose of the chapters in this Code of Ordinances pertaining to Solid Waste Control and Collection is to provide for the sanitary storage, collection, and disposal of solid waste and, thereby, to protect the citizens of the City from such hazards to their health, safety and welfare as may result from the uncontrolled disposal of solid waste.

105.02 DEFINITIONS. For use in these chapters the following terms are defined:

1. “Collector” means any person authorized to gather solid waste from public and private places.
2. “Discard” means to place, cause to be placed, throw, deposit, or drop.
(Code of Iowa, Sec. 455B.361[1])
3. “Dwelling unit” means any room or group of rooms located within a structure and forming a single habitable unit with facilities that are used or are intended to be used for living, sleeping, cooking, and eating.
4. “Garbage” means all solid and semisolid, putrescible animal and vegetable waste resulting from the handling, preparing, cooking, storing, serving and consuming of food or of material intended for use as food, and all offal, excluding useful industrial by-products, and includes all such substances from all public and private establishments and from all residences.
(IAC, 567-100.2)
5. “Landscape waste” means any vegetable or plant waste except garbage. The term includes trees, tree trimmings, branches, stumps, brush, weeds, leaves, grass, shrubbery, and yard trimmings.
(IAC, 567-20.2[455B])
6. “Litter” means any garbage, rubbish, trash, refuse, waste materials, or debris not exceeding 10 pounds in weight or 15 cubic feet in volume. Litter includes but is not limited to empty beverage containers, cigarette butts, food waste packaging, other food or candy wrappers, handbills, empty cartons, or boxes.
(Code of Iowa, Sec. 455B.361[2])
7. “Owner” means, in addition to the record titleholder, any person residing in, renting, leasing, occupying, operating or transacting business in any premises, and as between such parties the duties, responsibilities, liabilities and obligations hereinafter imposed shall be joint and several.
8. “Refuse” means putrescible and non-putrescible waste, including but not limited to garbage, rubbish, ashes, incinerator residues, street cleanings, market and industrial solid waste and sewage treatment waste in dry or semisolid form.
(IAC, 567-100.2)

9. “Residential premises” means a single-family dwelling and any multiple-family dwelling up to and including four separate dwelling units.

10. “Residential waste” means any refuse generated on the premises as a result of residential activities. The term includes landscape waste grown on the premises or deposited thereon by the elements, but excludes garbage, tires, trade wastes and any locally recyclable goods or plastics.
(IAC, 567-20.2[455B])

11. “Rubbish” means non-putrescible solid waste consisting of combustible and non-combustible waste, such as ashes, paper, cardboard, tin cans, yard clippings, wood, glass, bedding, crockery, or litter of any kind.
(IAC, 567-100.2)

12. “Sanitary disposal” means a method of treating solid waste so that it does not produce a hazard to the public health or safety or create a nuisance.
(IAC, 567-100.2)

13. “Sanitary disposal project” means all facilities and appurtenances (including all real and personal property connected with such facilities) that are acquired, purchased, constructed, reconstructed, equipped, improved, extended, maintained, or operated to facilitate the final disposition of solid waste without creating a significant hazard to the public health or safety, and which are approved by the Director of the State Department of Natural Resources.
(Code of Iowa, Sec. 455B.301)

14. “Solid waste” means garbage, refuse, rubbish, and other similar discarded solid or semisolid materials, including but not limited to such materials resulting from industrial, commercial, agricultural, and domestic activities. Solid waste may include vehicles, as defined by Section 321.1 of the *Code of Iowa*. Solid waste does not include any of the following:
(Code of Iowa, Sec. 455B.301)

A. Hazardous waste regulated under the Federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, 42 U.S.C. § 6921-6934.

B. Hazardous waste as defined in Section 455B.411 of the *Code of Iowa*, except to the extent that rules allowing for the disposal of specific wastes have been adopted by the State Environmental Protection Commission.

C. Source, special nuclear, or by-product material as defined in the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended to January 1, 1979.

D. Petroleum contaminated soil that has been remediated to acceptable State or federal standards.

E. Steel slag which is a product resulting from the steel manufacturing process and is managed as an item of value in a controlled manner and not as a discarded material.

105.03 SANITARY DISPOSAL REQUIRED. It is the duty of each owner to provide for the sanitary disposal of all refuse accumulating on the owner’s premises before it becomes a nuisance. Any such accumulation remaining on any premises for a period of more than 30 days shall be deemed a nuisance and the City may proceed to abate such nuisances in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 50 or by initiating proper action in district court.

(Code of Iowa, Ch. 657)

105.04 HEALTH AND FIRE HAZARD. It is unlawful for any person to permit to accumulate on any premises, improved or vacant, or on any public place, such quantities of solid waste that constitute a health, sanitation or fire hazard.

105.05 OPEN BURNING.

1. Restricted. No person shall ignite, cause to be ignited, permit to be ignited, or suffer, allow, or maintain any open burning, including the burning of household rubbish, recyclables and the burning of solid waste in a burn barrel, except that open burning of the following types may be allowed with Council approval and required permit:

A. Dangerous Materials. Fires for the disposal of dangerous materials or for the prevention of a fire hazard when other alternative methods of disposal are not available or are deemed impractical.

B. Training Fires. Fires set for the purpose of bona fide instruction and training of public and/or industrial employees in the methods of firefighting. These fires shall not contain any asphaltic or asbestos materials. However, the Fire Department may conduct two training fires per calendar year which allow asphalt type roofing, provided these fires follow the State Department of Natural Resources requirements for such, and are determined reasonable and practical when consideration is given to such factors as cost, safety, air quality of the vicinity and effects to the local environment.

C. Disaster Rubbish. The open burning of rubbish, including landscape waste, for the duration of the community disaster period in cases where an officially declared emergency condition exists, provided that the burning of any structures or demolished structures is conducted in accordance with 40 CFR Section 61.145.

(IAC, 567-23.2[3a])

D. Flare Stacks. The open burning or flaring of waste gases, provided such open burning or flaring is conducted in compliance with applicable rules of the State Department of Natural Resources.

(IAC, 567-23.2[3c])

E. Ceremonial Burning. Fires for ceremonial/recreational purposes such as American Legion flag burning, pep rallies, religious ceremonies, etc. These fires must be under the legitimate sponsorship of a bon-fide civic, fraternal, religious, educational, or similar organization and must comply with this Code of Ordinances.

F. Other Burning. Other open burning such as, but not limited to, native prairie management, may be allowed on a case by case basis provided that the burning will not adversely affect the air quality or will not violate any sections of this chapter and is reasonable and practical as compared to other alternatives available.

G. Variance. Any person wishing to conduct open burning of materials not permitted herein may make application for a variance to the Director of the State Department of Natural Resources.

(IAC, 567-23.2[2])

2. Exemptions. The following types of open burning are exempt from the requirement for a permit:

A. Outdoor Cooking Fires. As used herein, "outdoor cooking fire" means the burning of materials where fuel being burned is contained in manufactured outdoor fireplaces or grills used for food preparation and in accordance with this section. Outdoor cooking fires shall be conducted within safe distances from buildings, structures and combustible materials. Fuel shall be limited to clean lumber, logs, propane, natural gas or charcoal.

B. Recreational Fires. Recreational fires are allowed only during the hours of 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 a.m. and must be 15 feet away from any structure. Recreational fires shall be

limited to manufactured fire pits above or below ground, protected by metal, stone or concrete. Fires shall be limited to two feet or less in diameter and two feet or less in height. All openings shall be covered by a protective mesh screen with a maximum grid size of one-half inch. No construction or demolition waste shall be burned. Fuel shall be limited to clean lumber and logs only.

3. Open Burning of Leaves. Open burning of leaves shall be permitted on Saturdays between 10:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., November 1 through November 30, unless superseded by a higher authority, providing the following conditions are met and maintained. A permit is not required for leaf burning. All other yard waste must be transported to the City yard waste site on South Street. As used herein, "leaves" are leaves and twigs smaller than one inch in diameter and two feet in length, providing these fires comply with this Code of Ordinances.

A. Burning shall be conducted in a safe and reasonable manner so as not to endanger life or property. No fire shall be kindled when wind velocity exceeds 15 miles per hour.

B. Burning material shall be constantly attended by a person familiar with the open burning regulations with appropriate fire-extinguishing equipment readily available.

C. Fires shall only be conducted within the boundaries of the burning party's private property. Burning is not permitted in any City rights-of-way, which include streets, ditches, easements, and alleys.

If leaves are blown onto streets by a property owner or tenant and removal is necessary by the City, the property owner or tenant will be responsible for the cost of removal.

4. Violations. An official of the City is authorized to require that open fires be immediately discontinued if it is determined that smoke emissions are offensive to occupants of surrounding property or if the open burning is determined to constitute a hazardous condition. This provision shall not limit the City from seeking penalties provided for in this Code of Ordinances.

105.06 SEPARATION OF YARD WASTE REQUIRED. All yard waste shall be separated as described in Chapter 107.

105.07 LITTERING PROHIBITED. No person shall discard any litter onto or in any water or land, except that nothing in this section shall be construed to affect the authorized collection and discarding of such litter in or on areas or receptacles provided for such purpose. When litter is discarded from a motor vehicle, the driver of the motor vehicle shall be responsible for the act in any case where doubt exists as to which occupant of the motor vehicle actually discarded the litter.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 455B.363)

105.08 TOXIC AND HAZARDOUS WASTE. No person shall deposit in a solid waste container or otherwise offer for collection any toxic or hazardous waste. Such materials shall be transported and disposed of as prescribed by the Director of the State Department of Natural Resources. As used in this section, "toxic and hazardous waste" means waste materials, including (but not limited to) poisons, pesticides, herbicides, acids, caustics, pathological waste, flammable or explosive materials, and similar harmful waste that requires special handling and that must be disposed of in such a manner as to conserve the environment and protect the public health and safety.

(IAC, 567-100.2)

(IAC, 567-102.13[2] and 400-27.14[2])

105.09 WASTE STORAGE CONTAINERS. Every person owning, managing, operating, leasing, or renting any premises, dwelling unit or any place where refuse accumulates shall provide and at all times maintain in good order and repair portable containers for refuse in accordance with the following:

1. Container Specifications. Waste storage containers shall comply with the following specifications:

A. Residential. Residential waste containers, whether they are reusable, portable containers or heavy-duty disposable garbage bags, shall be of sufficient capacity, and leak-proof and waterproof. Disposable containers shall be securely fastened, and reusable containers shall be fitted with a fly-tight lid that shall be kept in place except when depositing or removing the contents of the container. Reusable containers shall also be lightweight and of sturdy construction and have suitable lifting devices.

B. Commercial. Every person owning, managing, operating, leasing or renting any commercial premises where an excessive amount of refuse accumulates and where its storage in portable containers as required above is impractical, shall maintain metal bulk storage containers approved by the City.

2. Storage of Containers. Residential solid waste containers shall be stored upon the residential premises. Commercial solid waste containers shall be stored upon private property, unless the owner has been granted written permission from the City to use public property for such purposes. The storage site shall be well drained and fully accessible to collection equipment, public health personnel, and fire inspection personnel. All owners of residential and commercial premises shall be responsible for proper storage of all garbage and yard waste to prevent materials from being blown or scattered around neighboring yards and streets.

3. Location of Containers for Collection. Containers for the storage of solid waste awaiting collection shall be placed outdoors at some easily accessible place by the owner or occupant of the premises served.

4. Nonconforming Containers. Solid waste placed in containers that are not in compliance with the provisions of this section will not be collected.

105.10 PROHIBITED PRACTICES. It is unlawful for any person to:

1. Unlawful Use of Containers. Deposit refuse in any solid waste containers not owned by such person without the written consent of the owner of such containers.

2. Interfere with Collectors. Interfere in any manner with solid waste collection equipment or with solid waste collectors in the lawful performance of their duties as such, whether such equipment or collectors be those of the City, or those of any other authorized waste collection service.

3. Incinerators. Burn rubbish or garbage except in incinerators designed for high temperature operation, in which solid, semisolid, liquid, or gaseous combustible refuse is ignited and burned efficiently, and from which the solid residues contain little or no combustible material, as acceptable to the Environmental Protection Commission.

4. Scavenging. Take or collect any solid waste that has been placed out for collection on any premises, unless such person is an authorized solid waste collector.