

CHAPTER 21: SANITARY SEWERAGE

21 - 101	Definitions
21 - 102	General regulations
21 - 103	Connection to public sewers
21 - 104	Private sewage disposal
21 - 105	Building sewers and connections
21 - 106	Power and authority of inspectors
21 - 107	Penalties

* * * * *

21-101 Definitions

Unless the context specifically indicates otherwise, the meaning of terms used in this chapter shall be as follows:

1. Sewerage works--all facilities for collecting, pumping, treating, and disposing of sewage.
2. Superintendent--the superintendent or director of public works of the municipality, or his authorized deputy, agent or representative, as designated by the mayor and council.
3. Sewage--a combination of the water-carried wastes from residences, business buildings, institutions, and industrial establishments, together with such ground, surface, and storm waters as may be present.
4. Sewer--a pipe or conduit for carrying sewage.
5. Public sewer--a sewer in which all owners of abutting properties have equal rights and which is controlled by public authority.
6. Sanitary sewer--a sewer which carries sewage and to which storm, surface, and ground waters are not intentionally admitted.
7. Storm sewer or storm drain--a sewer which carries storm and surface waters and drainage, but excludes sewage and polluted industrial wastes.
8. Sewage treatment plant--any arrangement of devices and structures or lagoons used for treating sewage presently owned or afterward acquired by this municipality.
9. Industrial wastes--the liquid wastes from industrial processes as distinct from sanitary sewage.

10. Garbage--solid wastes from the preparation, cooking, and disposing of food, and from the handling, storage, and sale of produce.
11. Properly shredded garbage--the wastes from the preparation, cooking, and dispensing of food that have been shredded to such degree that all particles will be carried freely under the flow conditions normally prevailing in public sewers, with no particle greater than one-half inch in any dimension.
12. Building drain--that part of the lowest horizontal piping of a drainage system which received the discharge from soil, waste, and other drainage pipes inside the walls of the building and conveys it to the building sewer, beginning five feet outside the inner face of the building wall.
13. Building sewer--the extension from the building drain to the public sewer or other place of disposal.
14. B.O.D. (denoting biochemical oxygen demand)--the quantity of oxygen utilized in the biochemical oxidation of organic matter under standard laboratory procedure in five days at 20 degrees Centigrade, expressed in milligrams per liter.
15. pH--the logarithm of the reciprocal of the hydrogen ion concentration in moles per liter.
16. Suspended solids--solids that either float on the surface of, or are in suspension in water, sewage, or other liquids; and which are removable by laboratory filtering.
17. Natural outlet--any outlet into a watercourse, pond, ditch, lake, or other body of surface or ground water.
18. Watercourse--a channel in which a flow of water occurs, either continuously or intermittently.
19. Person--any individual, firm, company, association, society, corporation, or group.

21-102 General regulations

1. It shall be unlawful for any person to place, deposit, or permit to be deposited in any unsanitary manner upon public or private property within this municipality, or in any area under the jurisdiction of said municipality, any human or animal excrement, garbage, or other objectionable waste.
2. It shall be unlawful for any person to discharge or cause to be discharged to any natural outlet within this municipality, or in any area under the jurisdiction of said municipality, any sanitary sewage, industrial wastes, or other polluted waters, except where suitable treatment has been provided in accordance with subsequent provisions of this

chapter.

3. Except as hereinafter provided, it shall be unlawful for any person to construct or maintain or cause to be constructed or maintained any privy, privy vault, cesspool, or other facility intended or used for the disposal of sewage.

4. It shall be unlawful for any person to maliciously, willfully, or negligently break, damage, destroy, uncover, deface, or tamper with any structure, appurtenance, or equipment which is a part of the municipal sewerage works.

21-103 Connection to public sewers

The owner of all houses, buildings, or properties used for human occupancy, employment, recreation, or other purposes within the corporate limits of this municipality--and located within 400 feet of a line of public sanitary sewer now in existence or after constructed to which such house, building, or property may be connected so that sewage will flow therefrom and into such sewer line by gravity--is hereby required at his own expense to install suitable toilet facilities therein and to connect such facilities directly with said line of public sanitary sewer in accordance with the provisions of this chapter within 60 days after date of official notice so to do.

21-104 Private sewage disposal

1. Where a public sanitary sewer is not available under the provisions of Section 21-103, the building sewer shall be connected to a private sewage disposal system complying with the provisions of this section.

2. Before commencement of construction of a private sewage disposal system, the owner shall first obtain a written permit signed by the Gwinnett County Environmental Health Department. The application for such permit shall be made on a form furnished by the municipality, which the applicant shall supplement by any plans, specifications, and other information as are deemed necessary by the superintendent. A permit and the inspection fee shall be paid to the municipality at the time the application is filed.

3. A permit for a private sewage disposal system shall not become effective until the installation is completed to the satisfaction of Gwinnett County. He shall be allowed to inspect the work at any stage of construction, in any event, the applicant for the permit shall notify Gwinnett County when the work is ready for final inspection and before any underground portions are covered. The inspection shall be made within 48 hours of the receipt of notice by Gwinnett County.

4. The type, capacities, location, and layout of a private sewage disposal system shall comply with all recommendations of the Department of Natural Resources of the State of Georgia. No permit shall be issued for any private sewage disposal system employing subsurface soil absorption facilities where the area of the lot is less than the required square

footage set by Gwinnett County. No septic tank or cesspool shall be permitted to discharge to any public sewer or natural outlet.

5. At such time as a public sewer becomes available to a property served by a private sewage disposal system, as provided in Section 21-103, a direct connection shall be made to the public sewer in compliance with this chapter, and any septic tanks, cesspools, and similar private sewage disposal facilities shall be abandoned and filled with suitable material.

6. The owner shall operate and maintain the private sewage disposal facilities in a sanitary manner at all times at no expense to the municipality.

7. No statement contained in this section shall be construed to interfere with any additional requirements that may be imposed by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources.

21-105 Building sewers and connections

1. No unauthorized person shall uncover, make any connections with or opening into, use, alter, or disturb any public sewer or appurtenances thereof without first obtaining a written permit from Gwinnett County.

21-106 Power and authority of inspectors

The superintendent and other duly authorized employees of the municipality bearing proper credentials and identification shall be permitted to enter upon all properties for the purpose of inspection, observation, measurement, sampling, and testing, in accordance with the provisions of this chapter.

21-107 Penalties

1. Any person found to be violating any provision of this chapter, except Subsection 4 of Section 21-102, shall be served by the municipality with written notice stating the nature of the violation and providing a reasonable time limit for the satisfactory correction thereof. The offender shall, within the period of time stated in such notice, permanently cease all violations.

2. Any person who shall violate the provisions of Subsection 4 of Section 21-102 of this chapter or who shall continue any violation hereof beyond the time limit provided for in Section 21-103 hereof, or who shall continue any other violation hereof beyond the time limit provided for in Subsection 1 above, shall be deemed guilty of a municipal offense and upon conviction therefore shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$500.00, or by imprisonment for not more than 180 days, or by both such fine and imprisonment for each violation. A separate offense shall be deemed committed upon each day during or on which a violation occurs or continues.