

TITLE III - PUBLIC SERVICES  
WATER SERVICE SYSTEM

CHAPTER 90  
GENERAL PROVISIONS

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90.01 DEFINITIONS. The following terms are defined for use in the chapters in this Code of Ordinances pertaining to the Water Service System:

1. "Containment" is a method of backflow prevention which requires a backflow prevention assembly on certain water services. Containment requires that the backflow prevention assembly be installed on the water service as close to the public water supply main as is practical. (Added by Ordinance No. 637)
2. "Customer" means in addition to any person receiving water service from the City the owner of the property served, and as between such parties the duties, responsibilities, liabilities and obligations hereinafter imposed shall be joint and several.
3. "Superintendent" means the superintendent of the City water system or any duly authorized assistant, agent or representative.
4. "Water Main" means a water supply pipe provided for public or community use.
5. "Water Service Pipe" means the pipe from the water main to the building served.
6. "Water System" or "Water Works" means all public facilities for securing, collecting, storing, pumping, treating and distributing water.

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90.02 SUPERINTENDENT: APPOINTMENT, DUTIES. There shall be appointed a water superintendent who shall supervise the installation of water service pipes and their connection to the water main and enforce all regulations pertaining to water services in the City in accordance with this chapter. This chapter shall apply to all replacements of existing water service pipes as well as to new ones. The superintendent shall make such rules, not in conflict with the provisions of this chapter, as may be needed for the detailed operation of the water system, subject to the approval of the Council. In the event of an emergency the superintendent may make temporary rules for the protection of the system until due consideration by the Council may be had.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 372.13[4])

90.03 MANDATORY CONNECTIONS. All residences and business establishments within the City limits intended or used for human habitation, occupancy or use shall be connected to the public water system, if it is reasonably available and if the building is not furnished with pure and wholesome water from some other source.

90.04 CROSS-CONNECTION CONTROL. Cross-connection control shall be provided in accordance with the provisions of this section.

1. Proposed Water Service. No person shall install, or cause to have installed, a water service to a building, property or private water system if it is found that contamination or pollution of the public water supply could occur unless the water service is protected by an approved backflow prevention assembly for containment. The superintendent shall review plans and other information to determine if cross connections will exist and the degree of hazard. The customer shall install, or cause to have installed, an approved assembly as directed by the superintendent before water service is initiated. Reconstruction of an existing water service shall be treated as a proposed water service for the purposes of this section.

2. Existing Water Services. The standards used to determine the degree of hazard for a water service shall be consistent with standards published by the Iowa Department of Public Health. If the superintendent determines that a water service may contaminate the public water supply, the superintendent shall require that the customer install the appropriate backflow prevention assembly for containment. If a customer refuses to install a backflow prevention assembly when required, the superintendent may order that water service to the customer be discontinued until an appropriate backflow prevention assembly is installed.

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3. Backflow Prevention Assemblies for Containment. The superintendent shall approve backflow prevention devices tested and maintained according to Iowa Public Health Department rules. No device or assembly shall be removed from use or relocated or other device or assembly substituted without the approval of the superintendent. If a device or assembly is found to be defective or inoperative, the superintendent shall require the repair or replacement thereof. Devices shall be installed immediately following the water meter or as close to that location as deemed practical by the superintendent. *(Ord. 637)*

90.05 ABANDONED CONNECTIONS. When an existing water service is abandoned or a service is renewed with a new tap in the main, all abandoned connections with the mains shall be turned off at the corporation cock and made absolutely watertight.

90.06 PERMIT. Before any person makes a connection with the public water system, a written permit must be obtained from the Clerk. The application for the permit shall be filed with the Clerk on blanks furnished by the Clerk. The application shall include a legal description of the property, the name of the property owner, the name and address of the person who will do the work, and the general uses of the water. No different or additional uses will be allowed except by written permission of the Clerk. The Clerk shall sign and issue the permit and state the time of issuance, if the proposed work meets all the requirements of this chapter and if all fees required under this chapter have been paid. Work under any permit must be begun within two (2) months after it is issued. The Clerk may at any time revoke the permit for any violation of this chapter and require that the work be stopped.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 372.13[4])

90.07 FEE FOR PERMIT AND CONNECTION CHARGE. Before any permit is issued the person who makes the application shall pay twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) to the Clerk to cover the cost of issuing the permit and supervising, regulating, and inspection of the work. In addition there shall be a connection charge in the amount of six dollars (\$6.00) per front foot paid before issuance of a permit to reimburse the City for costs borne by the City in making water service available to the property served. There shall be no charge for additional small taps if the connection fee is paid. The connection fee is a one-time fee and shall apply only to water mains designated by the council as follows:

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 384.84[6a])

1.

90.08 COMPLIANCE WITH PLUMBING CODE. The installation of any water service pipe and any connection with the water system shall comply with all pertinent and applicable provisions, whether regulatory, procedural or enforcement provisions, of the State Plumbing Code for Iowa promulgated by the Iowa Department of Public Health.

*(Ord. 917 – Aug. 05 Supp.)*

90.09 PLUMBER OR PIPE LAYER REQUIRED. All installations of water service pipes and connections to the water system shall be made by a plumber or water service installer licensed by the City. The superintendent shall have the power to suspend the approval of any plumber or water service installer for violation of any of the provisions of this chapter. A suspension, unless revoked, shall continue until the next regular meeting of the City Council. The superintendent shall notify the person immediately by personal written notice of the suspension, the reasons for the suspension and the time and place of the Council meeting at which the plumber or water service installer will be granted a hearing. At this Council meeting the superintendent shall make a written report to the Council stating the reasons for the suspension, and the Council, after fair hearing, shall affirm or revoke the suspension or take any further action that is necessary and proper. *(Ord. 623)*

90.10 EXCAVATIONS. All excavations for water service lines shall be made in accordance with the following:

1. Trenching, Excavation and Backfill. Trenching, excavation and backfill for water service lines shall be as specified in the Iowa State Plumbing Code.

*(Ord. 929 – Aug. 06 Supp.)*

2. Public Right-of-way (PROW). No person shall obstruct or excavate any public right-of-way except in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 175.

*(Ord. 766 – Feb-99 Supp.)*

90.11 TAPPING MAINS. All taps into water mains shall be made by or under the direct supervision of the superintendent and in accord with the following:

1. Independent Services. No more than one house, building or premises shall be supplied from one tap unless special written permission is obtained from the superintendent and unless provision is made so that each house, building or premises may be shut off independently of the other.

2. Sizes and Location of Taps. All mains shall receive no larger than a one-inch (1") tap. Where a larger connection than a one-inch tap is desired, two (2) or more small taps or saddles shall be used, as the superintendent shall order. Taps larger than one inch are also commercially available, but must be approved by the superintendent, and full costs of the same are borne by the installer. All taps in the mains shall be made at or near the top of the pipe, at least thirty-six (36) inches apart. No main shall be tapped nearer than three (3) feet of the joint in the main.

3. Corporation Cock. A brass corporation cock, of the pattern and weight approved by the superintendent, shall be inserted in every tap in the main. The corporation cock in the main shall in no case be smaller than one size smaller than the service pipe.

4. Location Record. An accurate and dimensional sketch showing the exact location of the tap shall be filed with the superintendent in such form as the superintendent shall require.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 372.13[4])

90.12 INSTALLATION OF WATER SERVICE PIPE. Water service pipes from the main to the meter setting shall be standard Type K copper (CP), conforming with ASTM B-88 or polyethylene plastic (PE) conforming with ASTM D2239. The PE pipe shall be minimum 3/4 inch diameter (SDR-PR) as applied to PE 3406, iron pipe size; minimum 160 psi working pressure; joints shall be bronze compression type fittings using approved pipe joint compound. Insert stiffeners shall be provided for plastic pipe for curb and corporation stops in accordance with manufacturer's recommendations. Plastic pipe house service lines shall be connected to the water main with an approved tapping saddle. Service lines shall be connected to the water main with the corporation stop, curb stop and service box located below frost line. (Amended by Ordinance No. 659)

90.13 CURB STOP. There shall be installed within the public right-of-way a main shut-off valve of the inverted key type on the water service pipe at the outer sidewalk line with a suitable lock of a pattern approved by the superintendent. The shut-off valve shall be covered with a heavy metal cover having the letter "W" marked thereon, visible and even with the pavement or ground.

90.14 INTERIOR STOP AND WASTE COCK. There shall be installed a shut-off valve and waste cock on every service pipe inside the building as close to the entrance of the pipe within the building as possible and so located that the water can be shut off conveniently and the pipes drained. Where one service pipe supplies more than one customer within the building, there shall be separate valves for each such customer so that service may be shut off for one without interfering with service to the others.

90.15 INSPECTION AND APPROVAL. All water service pipes and their connections to the water system must be inspected and approved in writing by the superintendent before they are covered, and the superintendent shall keep a record of such

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approvals. If the superintendent refuses to approve the work, the plumber or property owner must proceed immediately to correct the work. Every person who uses or intends to use the municipal water system shall permit the superintendent to enter the premises to inspect or make necessary alterations or repairs at all reasonable hours and on proof of authority.

90.16 COMPLETION BY THE CITY. Should any excavation be left open or only partly refilled for twenty-four (24) hours after the water service pipe is installed and connected with the water system, or should the work be improperly done, the superintendent shall have the right to finish or correct the work, and the Council shall assess the costs to the property owner or the plumber. If the plumber is assessed, the plumber must pay the costs before receiving another permit. If the property owner is assessed, such assessment may be collected with and in the same manner as general property taxes.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 364.12[3a & h])

90.17 SHUTTING OFF WATER SUPPLY. After following the procedures set out in Section 92.05, the superintendent may shut off the supply of water to any customer because of any substantial violation of this chapter, or valid regulation under Section 90.02 that is not being contested in good faith. The supply shall not be turned on again until all violations have been corrected and the superintendent has ordered the water to be turned on.

90.18 PROPERTY OWNER'S RESPONSIBILITY. All costs and expenses incident to the installation, connection and maintenance of the water service pipe from the main to the building served shall be borne by the owner. The owner shall indemnify the City from any loss or damage that may directly or indirectly be occasioned by the installation or maintenance of said water service pipe.

90.19 FAILURE TO MAINTAIN. When any portion of the water service pipe which is the responsibility of the property owner becomes defective or creates a nuisance and the owner fails to correct such nuisance the City may do so and assess the costs thereof to the property.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 364.12[3a & h])

90.20 OPERATION OF CURB STOP. It shall be unlawful for any person except the water superintendent to turn water on at the curb stop.

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