

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.

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 RESTRICTED. No person shall allow, cause or permit open burning of combustible materials where the products of combustion are emitted into the open air without passing through a chimney or stack, except that open burning is permitted in the following circumstances:

(IAC, 567-23.2[455B] and 567-100.2)

1. 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])

2. Trees and Tree Trimmings. The open burning of trees and tree trimmings at a City-operated burning site, provided such burning is conducted in compliance with the rules established by the State Department of Natural Resources.

(IAC, 567-23.2[3b])

3. 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])

4. Landscape Waste. The disposal by open burning of landscape waste originating on the premises. However, the burning of landscape waste produced in clearing, grubbing and construction operations shall be limited to areas located at least one-fourth mile from any building inhabited by other than the landowner or tenant conducting the open burning. Rubber tires shall not be used to ignite landscape waste.

(IAC, 567-23.2[3d])

5. Recreational Fires. Open fires for cooking, heating, recreation, and ceremonies, provided they comply with the limits for emission of visible air contaminants established by the State Department of Natural Resources. Rubber tires shall not be burned in a recreational fire.

(IAC, 567-23.2[3e])

6. Residential Waste. Backyard burning of residential waste at dwellings of four-family units or less.

(IAC, 567-23.2[3f])

7. Training Fires. Fires set for the purpose of conducting bona fide training of public or industrial employees in firefighting methods, provided that the training fires are conducted in compliance with rules established by the State Department of Natural Resources.

(IAC, 567-23.2[3g])

8. Pesticide Containers and Seed Corn Bags. The disposal by open burning of paper or plastic pesticide containers (except those formerly containing organic forms of beryllium, selenium, mercury, lead, cadmium or arsenic) and seed corn bags resulting from farming activities occurring on the premises if burned in accordance with rules established by the State Department of Natural Resources.

(IAC, 567-23.2[3h])

9. Agricultural Structures. The open burning of agricultural structures if in accordance with rules and limitations established by the State Department of Natural Resources.

(IAC, 567-23.2[3i])

10. Controlled Burning of a Demolished Building. The controlled burning of a demolished building by the City, subject to approval of the Council, provided that the controlled burning is conducted in accordance with rules and limitations established by the State Department of Natural Resources.

(IAC, 567-23.2[3j])

11. 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])

105.06 SEPARATION OF YARD WASTE REQUIRED. As used in this section, “yard waste” means any debris such as grass clippings, leaves, garden waste, brush, and trees. Yard waste does not include tree stumps. Yard waste shall be separated by the owner or occupant from all other garbage and refuse accumulated on the premises and shall be composted on the premises or placed in degradable bags, containers, or packages, as hereinafter established, and set out for collection by the City.

1. Persons choosing not to compost their yard wastes on their own property may place yard waste in specially marked degradable bags, or reusable, handled containers belonging to and being the responsibility of said persons.

2. No compost upon the owner or occupant’s property shall be allowed to create a health or sanitary problem or other nuisance.

3. All yard wastes collected by the City shall be placed and maintained in degradable bags, containers, or packages as heretofore provided; degradable is defined as any untreated paper bags, or biodegradable or photo degradable plastic bags acceptable to the composting station used by the licensed compost collection hauler.

4. All solid waste shall be collected from residential premises at least once each week and from commercial, industrial and institutional premises as frequently as may be necessary. All yard waste shall be collected from residential, commercial, industrial, and institutional premises at least once each week, or as otherwise directed by the Council from time to time by motion.

5. Containers for the storage of solid wastes awaiting collection shall be placed at the curb or alley line by the owner or occupant of the premises served. Bagged yard waste must be placed three to six feet from garbage or other refuse.

6. Containers, bags, packages, or other solid wastes placed at the curb line shall not be so placed more than 12 hours in advance of the regularly scheduled collection day.

7. The number of solid waste containers to be collected per residential premises per week and the number of degradable bags containing yard waste which persons may place out for collection shall be established by the Council by resolution from time to time.

105.07 STORAGE OF YARD WASTE. All yard wastes shall be stored in containers so constructed and maintained as to prevent the dispersal of wastes placed therein upon the premises served, upon adjacent premises, or upon adjacent public rights-of-way. Tree limbs less than four inches in diameter and brush shall be securely tied in bundles not larger than 48 inches long and 18 inches in diameter when not placed in storage containers. The weight of any individual bundle or container shall not exceed 75 pounds.

105.08 TREE LIMBS AND BRUSH. Tree limbs of less than four inches in diameter and brush will be collected provided they are placed at the curb or alley line, securely tied in bundles not more than 48 inches long or 18 inches in diameter when not in approved containers and weighing no more than 75 pounds.

105.09 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)

105.10 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])

105.11 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, provided by the City/contractor, shall not exceed 95 gallons in capacity, shall contain wheels upon which the container can be moved. Said containers shall always remain at the property unless other City services are disconnected or discontinued, at which time the container shall be returned directly to the City/contractor. Every person owning, managing, operating, occupying, leasing or renting any premises, dwelling unit or any place where refuse accumulates is responsible for maintaining the container in good working order and shall be responsible

for the costs of replacing any container that becomes un-useable or is lost or stolen. All waste considered to be residential waste shall be bagged and tied. Disposable containers shall be securely fastened, and reusable containers shall be fitted with a fly tight lid, which shall be closed securely to the container for collection. All additional bags placed for collection may not exceed 33 gallons and 40 lbs. in weight and must be marked with a single use collection tag obtained from City Hall.

B. Commercial. Every person owning, managing, operating, occupying, leasing, or renting any commercial premises where an excessive amount of refuse accumulates and where its storage in portable containers as required in Paragraph A is impracticable, shall maintain metal bulk storage containers approved by the City/contractor. The metal bulk storage container lids shall be closed securely to the container for collection.

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, 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 by the owner or occupant of the premises served at the location designated by the City near the curb or alley line. Containers or other solid waste awaiting collection shall be placed by the curb or alley line by the time designated by the City/contractor on the designated collection day; however containers or other solid waste shall not be so placed more than 12 hours from the curb line following collection. Commercial metal bulk storage containers shall be placed on concrete slabs no smaller than 1 foot larger than the dumpsters width and length and set at ground level. The slab locations shall be inspected by the City before installation for accessible placement and after for adequate construction.

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

(Section 105.11 – Ord. 2021-2 – Dec. 23 Supp.)

105.12 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.

105.13 REMOVAL OF SNOW, ICE, AND ACCUMULATIONS. It is the responsibility of the owner of a metal bulk storage container, also known as a dumpster, to remove snow and ice within 24 hours of accumulation. All snow and ice shall be cleared within a two-foot radius, including under the container, for easy access.

105.14 FAILURE TO MAINTAIN. If an owner of a metal bulk storage container fails to remove snow and ice within 24 hours of accumulation, the City may do so and bill the owner for actual costs of removal per dumpster for services rendered.

105.15 SANITARY LANDFILL FACILITIES. The sanitary landfill facilities operated by the Wayne, Ringgold, Decatur County Solid Waste Management Commission are hereby designated as the official Public Sanitary Disposal Project for the disposal of solid waste produced or originating within the City.