

## 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[2]*)
3. “Dwelling unit” means any room or group of rooms located within a structure and forming a single habitable unit with facilities which 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. (*Code of Iowa, Sec. 455B.361[1]*)
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 two (2) separate dwelling units. All other structures shall be classified as institutional, commercial or industrial.

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 and trade waste.

(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, which 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 thirty

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(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 or which result in offensive odors or sights.

**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 without first obtaining a permit from the Fire Chief or his designee and conducting such burning in accordance with the *International Fire Code*. This section excludes recreational fires as described in Section 156.03.

**105.06 SEPARATION OF YARD WASTE REQUIRED.** All yard waste shall be separated by the owner or occupant from all other solid waste accumulated on the premises and shall be composted on the premises or placed in acceptable containers and set out for collection. 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.

**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 OPEN DUMPING PROHIBITED.** No person shall dump or deposit or permit the dumping or depositing of any solid waste on the surface of the ground or into a body or stream of water at any place other than a sanitary disposal project approved by the Director of the State Department of Natural Resources, unless a special permit to dump or deposit solid waste on land owned or leased by such person has been obtained from the Director of the State Department of Natural Resources. However, this section does not prohibit the use of rubble at places other than a sanitary disposal project. "Rubble" means dirt, stone, brick, or similar inorganic materials used for beneficial fill, landscaping, excavation, or grading at places other than a sanitary disposal project. Rubble includes asphalt waste only as long as it is not used in contact with water or in a flood plain. For purposes of this section, rubble does not mean gypsum or gypsum wallboard, coal combustion residue, foundry sand, or industrial process wastes unless those wastes are approved by the State Department of Natural Resources.

*(Code of Iowa, Sec. 455B.301, Sec. 455B.307 and IAC, 567-100.2)*

**105.09 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 which

requires special handling and which 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])*

**105.10 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 shall be issued by the City. The resident may request a 35-gallon or 95-gallon waste container. A monthly fee will be charged for the use of such container and be set by Council. If monthly waste exceeds the capacity of the largest issued container, a second waste container may be issued upon request and an additional fee shall be charged as set by the Council. Residential properties may also request a separate waste container, at no additional charge, for the use of recyclable household items.

B. Residential Recycling. Every person owning, managing, operating, leasing or renting a residential premises will be encouraged to recycle their solid waste. To assist in this recycling effort, the City will provide for residential properties recyclable totes for the collection of:

(1) Glass, paper, tin cans, plastics, and cardboard. The individual property shall properly sort recyclable materials and place them in the appropriate recyclable totes to be picked up by the City-approved and licensed collectors as may be scheduled. This service will be provided free of charge. There will be no limit to the amount of recyclable properly placed in totes.

C. 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, the weight, shape and size of which shall be negotiated between the collector and the owner or occupant of such premises.

D. Commercial Recycling. Every person owning, managing, operating, leasing or renting any commercial premises will be encouraged to recycle its solid waste whenever practical. To assist in this recycling effort the City will provide for commercial establishments recyclable totes for the collection of:

(1) Glass, paper, tin cans, plastics, and cardboard. The individual establishment shall properly sort recyclable materials and place them in the appropriate recyclable totes to be picked up by the City-approved and licensed collectors as may be scheduled. This service will initially be provided free of charge. There will be no limit to the amount of recyclable properly placed in the totes.

E. Proof of Service. Businesses that opt out of this service shall be required to provide proof upon demand from the City that another approved licensed collection agency is collecting their recyclable material.

2. Storage of Containers. Residential solid waste and recyclable 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, recyclables, 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 garbage, recyclables, and yard waste awaiting collection shall be placed within five (5) feet of the curb or alley line by the owner or occupant of the premises served. Containers placed at the curb line shall not be so placed more than twelve (12) hours in advance of the regularly scheduled collection day and shall be promptly removed from the curb line following collection.

4. Nonconforming Containers. Any container used, other than a City-issued container, will be collected together with their contents and disposed of after due notice to the owner.

**105.11 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. Disposal Site. Dispose of solid waste within the City at any site which is not zoned and approved for such purpose by the City.

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

6. Mixing. Deposit non-recyclables in a recyclable container.

**105.12 SANITARY DISPOSAL PROJECT DESIGNATED.** The sanitary landfill facilities operated by Plymouth County Solid Waste Agency are hereby designated as the official "Public Sanitary Disposal Project" for the disposal of solid waste produced or originating within the City.