

**INSTRUCTION SHEET  
ADDITIONS TO  
MILWAUKEE CODE OF ORDINANCES  
VOLUME 2**

**SUMMARY**

This supplement incorporates changes to Volume 2 of the Milwaukee Code of Ordinances enacted by the following Common Council files:

260109      A substitute ordinance relating to revisions of various provisions of the code for purposes of correcting errors, clarifying language, eliminating obsolete provisions, and updating references.

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**Remove old MEMO (Suppl. #358)**

| <b><u>Section<br/>Affected</u></b> | <b><u>Action</u></b> | <b><u>File<br/>Number</u></b> | <b><u>Effective<br/>Date</u></b> | <b><u>Remove<br/>Pages</u></b> | <b><u>Add<br/>Pages</u></b> |
|------------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 225-17-1                           | am                   | 260109                        | 8/1/2026                         | v-vi<br>199-200                | v-vi<br>199-200             |
| 225-31-3                           | rp                   | "                             | "                                | 209-210                        | 209-210                     |
| 225-31-4                           | rp                   | "                             | "                                | "                              | "                           |

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**Abbreviations:**

am=amended  
cr=created  
corr=correction

ra=renumbered and amended  
rc=recreated

rn=renumbered  
rp=repealed



## **MEMO**

If all supplements have been properly inserted, this book contains all actions of the Common Council through July 14, 2026.

Revised 7/14/2026  
Suppl. #359



SUBCHAPTER 2  
SEWAGE DISPOSAL AND WATER SYSTEMS

**225-14. Definitions.** In this subchapter:

1. **ALTER** means to change in one or more respects the characteristics of construction, installation or operation of an existing facility, but does not include replacement, repair or cleaning of parts of an existing facility.
2. **APPROVED** means accepted or acceptable under an applicable specification stated or cited in this subchapter, or accepted as suitable for the proposed use by the state department of safety and professional services.
3. **COMMISSIONER OF HEALTH** means the commissioner of health, his or her designated representative within the health department, or any other city official to whom the commissioner's functions or duties under this subchapter have been delegated pursuant to a memorandum of understanding.
4. **HOLDING TANK** means a tank conforming to the requirements of subch. IV, SPS 383, Wis. Adm. Code, which is intended for retaining sanitary sewage and intended to be emptied by licensed scavengers and disposed of in a public sewage disposal system.
5. **INDIVIDUAL SEWAGE DISPOSAL SYSTEM** means a sewage disposal system serving one premises, which system is not operated by the Milwaukee metropolitan sewerage district.
6. **SEEPAGE PIT** means a covered pit with an open-jointed lining through which septic tank effluent may seep or leach into the surrounding porous soil.
7. **SEPTIC TANK** means a watertight receptacle which receives the discharge of a draining system or part thereof and which is designed and constructed so as to separate solids from the liquid, digest organic matter through a period of detention, and allow the liquid to discharge into the soil outside of the tank through a system of perforated piping or through a seepage pit.
8. **SEWAGE DISPOSAL SYSTEM** means a sewer system and any or all connected sewage treatment facilities.

9. **SUBSURFACE DISPOSAL FIELD** means a system of perforated drains through which septic tank effluent is distributed beneath the surface of the ground and absorbed into the soil.

**225-15. Permit Required for Individual Sewage Disposal System.** 1. **COMMISSIONER OF HEALTH.** No person shall construct, install, build or alter any individual sewage disposal system without having first obtained from the commissioner of health a valid permit authorizing the person to perform the work for the specific system for which the permit was issued. Application for permits shall be made in the office of the commissioner of health on forms furnished by the commissioner and prepared in duplicate by the person applying for the permit. Such applications shall be accompanied by an appropriate form as required by ch. SPS 383, Wis. Adm. Code, giving the results of the soil percolation tests performed by a certified soil tester.

2. **EXAMINATION.** a. The commissioner of health shall be notified in writing at least 5 days prior to the soil percolation tests of the intent and the date and time the certified soil tester will be conducting such tests to allow the commissioner to observe the testing in progress. Failure to provide such notification will be cause of the commissioner of health to reject the results of such tests.

b. The commissioner of health may provide on-site examination of the soil percolation test performed by a certified soil tester to determine whether the test was performed in accordance with s. SPS 385.60, Wis. Adm. Code, to insure that the installation of an individual sewage disposal system is not likely to produce a public health nuisance.

3. **COMMISSIONER OF CITY DEVELOPMENT.** The commissioner of city development shall not issue a permit for the construction, erection or alteration of any building or structure containing or intended to contain any plumbing fixture or equipment which is now or is intended to be connected to any individual sewage disposal system unless the applicant for the permit has first obtained from the commissioner of health a valid permit for construction or alteration of an individual sewage disposal system as provided in sub. 1.

## 225-16 Plumbing and Drainage

### 225-16. Examination. 1. EXAMINATION FEES.

a. Each applicant for any permit required in accordance with s. 225-15 shall pay to the city treasurer the examination fee specified in s. 200-33 prior to filing the application for permit in the office of the commissioner of health. The examination fee shall be for a permit to construct or alter an individual sewage disposal system or to provide a holding tank in conformation with the appropriate provisions of ch. SPS 383, Wis. Adm. Code.

b. The examination fee specified in s. 200-33 is intended to defray in whole or in part, the costs to the city in performing examinations to determine if the proposed sewage disposal system, as described in the required application, is designed to be in conformity with this subchapter.

2. ISSUANCE OF PERMIT. The commissioner of health shall issue a permit as specified in s. 22515 only after he has determined that all of the provisions of this subchapter have been complied with. Such permits shall remain valid for a period of 2 years and may be extended for an additional 2 year period if such extension is deemed appropriate by the commissioner of health.

### 225-17. Independent Plumbing and Drainage System. 1. NEW INSTALLATIONS.

The plumbing and drainage system of each new building or structure or a new plumbing and drainage system installed in an existing building or structure shall be entirely separate and independent from that of any other building or structure. Every building or structure shall have an independent connection with a public or private main sewer when available. Private main sewers shall conform to specifications of public main sewers and shall be approved by the department of neighborhood services and the infrastructure services division, department of public works.

2. USE OF EXISTING DRAINS AND SEWERS. Old building drains and sewers may be used in connection with new buildings or structures or new plumbing systems only when such drains and sewers are found on examination and tests to conform in all respects to the regulations relating to drains or sewers. If such installations are found to be defective, the department shall notify the owner of the premises or his agent in writing of the changes necessary to make such installations conform with regulations of this chapter.

### 225-18. Maintenance of Individual Sewage Disposal System. 1.

The owner of any premises served by an individual sewage disposal system shall be responsible for the operation and maintenance of the system, and the operation shall at all times be carried out in a manner which will preclude the development of any public health nuisance or the pollution of any public watercourse. Whenever the commissioner of health determines that an individual sewage disposal system is being operated in such a manner as to cause a public health nuisance or the pollution of any public watercourse, the commissioner of health shall serve notice of such violation on the owner of the premises served by such sewage disposal system; or in cases where a building used for human habitation is located adjacent to a sanitary or combined sewer, the commissioner of health shall notify the commissioner of neighborhood services, who shall issue an order to the owner to connect to the sanitary or combined sewer within 10 days after service of the order.

2. The order shall:

- a. Be put in writing.
- b. Include a description of the real estate sufficient for identification.
- c. Include a statement of the reason or reasons why it is being issued.
- d. Allow a reasonable time for the completion of any act it requires.

**SUBCHAPTER 3  
GAS PIPING SYSTEMS**

**225-31. Gas Piping Systems; Scope.**

**1.** INSTALLATIONS. The installation and approval of gas piping shall be in accordance with NFPA 54 ANSI Z223.1 NATIONAL FUEL GAS CODE 2015.

**2.** PERMIT REQUIRED. Except as exempted under s. 200-24-1.5, no gas piping shall be installed, altered, renewed, replaced or connected without first obtaining a permit.

**225-32. Gas Piping and Fittings.**

**1.** SUPPLY PIPES AND METERS.

**a.** Every building or structure hereafter erected, and existing buildings or structures where gas piping is installed hereafter shall have the service or supply pipe equipped with an approved accessible shutoff located outside of the building or structure.

**b.** The gas utility or other gas supplier shall approve the location of its own meters and shall determine the manner and location of the supply gas pipe entry to a building or structure. The gas meter shall be accessible for inspection and maintenance at all times.

**c.** The gas piping system in buildings or structures shall extend to the outlet of the meter. Only the gas utility or other gas supplier shall connect its own gas meters to such system.

**d.** Only the agent or employees of the gas utility or other gas supplier shall disconnect either the inlet or outlet of its own gas meters for any purpose, or make any alterations, additions or changes to its gas service piping, meter connections or other gas supply facilities.

**e.** No gas meters and no gas piping shall be installed within any stair enclosure or exit passageway or within any other required means of enclosure.

**4.** AIR SUPPLY. The installation of gas-fired units of any type shall be permitted only in a room where an ample quantity of air for safe combustion and venting is supplied in an approved manner to such room or units. Gas-fired water heaters shall not be installed in bathrooms, bedrooms or any occupied rooms normally kept closed.

**5.** VENTILATION TO OUTER AIR. Gas-fired equipment and appliances shall be connected to a masonry chimney, metal smokestack or vent pipe to the outer air as regulated in ch. 264.

**225-33. Abandoned Gas Piping.** All existing buildings provided with gas piping intended for purposes of illumination shall have such piping disconnected and capped as near the gas meter as practicable. All other existing individual gas jets or fixtures shall also be removed or capped.

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