

CODE OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN, TEXAS  
TITLE 6. - ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL AND CONSERVATION.  
CHAPTER 6-5. - WATER QUALITY.  
ARTICLE 5. - DISCHARGES INTO STORM SEWERS OR WATERCOURSES.

**§ 6-5-51 - DISCHARGE RESTRICTIONS.**

(A) A person who analyzes water or wastewater to determine whether it complies with section shall use an approved method, if available.

(B) Except in accordance with a permit issued by Texas Commission On Environmental Quality or the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, person may not discharge or allow to be discharged into storm sewer or watercourse:

- (1) sewage;
- (2) garbage;
- (3) other waste;
- (4) a flammable or explosive liquid, solid, or gas, including gasoline, kerosene, benzene, naphtha, or a solvent;
- (5) a liquid or vapor that has a temperature of 96 degrees Fahrenheit or higher at the point where the liquid or vapor enters a watercourse;
- (6) a wax, grease, oil, plastic, or other substance that solidifies or become discernibly viscous at a temperature between 32 degrees Fahrenheit and 96 degrees Fahrenheit;
- (7) a noxious or malodorous substance, including hydrogen sulfide, sulphur dioxide, or nitrogen oxide, which either singly or by interaction with another substance is capable of producing an objectionable odor or hazard to a human, animal, plant, or aquatic organism;
- (8) a substance that:
  - (a) forms a solid;
  - (b) causes congestion or corrosion in a storm sewer or watercourse; or
  - (c) increases the maintenance requirement for a storm sewer or watercourse;
- (9) free or emulsified animal, vegetable, or mineral oil or grease;
- (10) an acid or alkaline that is detrimental to a storm sewer or watercourse;
- (11) a substance with a pH value lower than 6.0 or higher than 10.5;
- (12) a substance that contains a heavy metal or salt in solution or suspension in the prescribed concentration:
  - (a) arsenic that exceeds a concentration of 0.05 milligrams per liter;
  - (b) barium that exceeds a concentration of 5.0 milligrams per liter;
  - (c) boron that exceeds a concentration of 1.0 milligrams per liter;
  - (d) cadmium that exceeds a concentration of 0.02 milligrams per liter;
  - (e) chromium that exceed a concentration of 1.0 milligrams per liter;
  - (f) copper that exceeds a concentration of 1.0 milligrams per liter;
  - (g) lead that exceeds a concentration of 0.1 milligrams per liter;
  - (h) manganese that exceeds a concentration of 1.0 milligrams per liter;
  - (i) mercury that exceeds a concentration of 0.005 milligrams per liter;
  - (j) nickel that exceeds a concentration of 1.0 milligrams per liter;
  - (k) selenium that exceeds a concentration of 0.02 milligrams per liter;
  - (l) silver that exceeds a concentration of 0.1 milligrams per liter; or
  - (m) zinc that exceeds a concentration of 5.0 milligrams per liter;
- (13) phenol or another substance in a concentration that produces odor or taste in water;
- (14) cyanide that exceeds a concentration of 0.02 milligrams per liter;

- (15) formaldehyde;
- (16) phosphate that exceeds a concentration of six milligrams per liter;
- (17) sulphate that exceeds a concentration of 75 milligrams per liter;
- (18) a herbicide, pesticide, or fungicide, including chlordane, heptachlor, heptachlor epoxide, aldrin, dieldrin, DDT, DDD, or DDE, or other substance that is a hazard to human, animal, or plant life or an aquatic organism or that creates a hazard in the water;
- (19) waste containing radioactive material in a concentration greater than allowable by Texas Department of Health or Texas Commission on Environmental Quality regulations;
- (20) waste that causes in a storm sewer or watercourse:
  - (a) an unusual concentration of a solid or a chemical deposit;
  - (b) a permanent or nonfilterable change in the natural color of the water;
  - (c) an unusual flow; or
  - (d) dissolved oxygen of less than five milligrams per liter;
- (21) waste that contains:
  - (a) chloride that exceeds a concentration of 100 milligrams per liter;
  - (b) total dissolved solids that exceed a concentration of 400 milligrams per liter;
  - (c) material that causes foaming or frothing; or
  - (d) settleable solids that exceeds a concentration of five milligrams per liter;
- (22) waste with:
  - (a) a biochemical oxygen demand that exceeds 20 milligrams per liter; or
  - (b) a chemical oxygen demand that exceeds 45 milligrams per liter; or
- (23) a substance:
  - (a) that the director determines causes pollution; or
  - (b) whose discharge violates Chapter 26 (Texas Water Quality Act) of the Texas Water Code, or a waste discharge permit, rule, regulation, or order issued by the Texas Commission On Environmental Quality.

(C) A person:

- (1) shall treat or remove from water a heavy metal or salt if it exceeds the concentration limit prescribed by Subsection (B)(12); and
- (2) may not dilute a heavy metal or salt in an attempt to comply with the concentration limit.

(D) The director may restrict the discharge of a waste that contains a heavy metal to a limit expressed in "pounds per day" to prevent the use of dilution to meet a concentration limit.

(E) If waste contains a substance that is not regulated by this article, the maximum amount of the substance that a person may discharge to a storm sewer or watercourse is prescribed by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality or other appropriate governmental agency.

Source: 1992 Code Section 4-1-76; Ord. 031023-10; Ord. 031211-11.