

## **Infiltration and Inflow Policy**

Pursuant to Chapter 97.01, no person shall discharge or cause to be discharged any storm water, surface water, groundwater, roof run-off, sub-surface drainage, uncontaminated cooling water, or unpolluted industrial process waters to any sanitary sewer. Inflow and Infiltration (I&I) is the invasion of storm water into the sanitary sewer system from broken, cracked or misaligned mains, leaking manholes or manholes that have water flowing over their covers. Other sources of I&I include private (resident and business) services that are cracked or broken and storm water connections from sump pits, roof drains or surface drains into sanitary sewers. The storm water connections from sump pits, roof drains or surface drains are illegal based on Chapter 97.01 (was amended as such by Ordinance 612 in 1979.)

I&I not only causes sewage backups in basements, but also results in a substantial increase in energy needs and rapidly advances the need for repair and maintenance due to increased burden on the system. In addition, there is a reduction in sewer capacity, which shortens the life of the current treatment facility. All of which result in increased cost and financial burden on citizens and businesses of Indianola.

In addition to Chapter 97 of the City of Indianola Code of Ordinances, the City adopted Chapter 94 of the City of Indianola Code of Ordinances authorizing Time of Sales Inspections within the City sanitary sewer system.

The mayor and council therefore adopt the following policy to abate problems associated with I&I:

1. The city shall perform a study to locate I&I using sewer department staff and an engineering firm. It shall be conducted on an area-by-area basis concentrating on the city's sewer mains by televising, cleaning, smoke testing, and installing flow meters.
2. The city staff will prioritize their findings to repair the most severe first with the funds budgeted for that budget year. Public sewers and manholes with I&I shall be repaired using sewer revenue including fees and grants etc. designated by the city council.
3. Private sources of I&I will be inspected pursuant to the Time of Sales ordinance, or as part of a Capital Project or resident request. Inspection Fees will be assessed pursuant to the city's annual fee schedule. Illegal connections shall be repaired as noted below.
  - Information obtained that identifies leaky lateral or other non-illegal contributors of I&I will be shared with the homeowner. The City will not mandate repairs.
4. Beginning May 1, 2017, the city will allow the residents that are on the I&I Penalty list the opportunity to be removed from the list if they have their residence inspected in accordance with the Time of Sale Ordinance and the penalty fees paid in full. Successful inspections will result in the issuance of a Certificate of Compliance and you will be removed from the I&I Penalty list starting with the next month's billing. The certificate will be good for two years.

Upon written notification from the City (regular first-class mail) I&I flowing into the sanitary sewer from an illegal connection, the property owner shall have a period of **90 days to abate the problem.** Those owners that perform the proper repairs or retain a contractor to make the repairs within 90 days of notification or less shall be eligible for one of the following finance options:

- a) 25% reimbursement (not to exceed \$1000) for the disconnection costs. Repair amounts in excess of \$7500 and up to \$15,000 will be eligible for an additional rebate amount equal

to 10% per \$1000. A repair in excess of \$15,000 will receive an additional 25% per \$1000.

OR:

- b) Loan Amounts may range from \$3,000 to \$7,500 with a three (3%) interest rate. Loan term may vary not to exceed ten (10) years. Loan requests will be approved by the City Manager.

Inspection by city staff both prior to and after repairs shall be necessary for a reimbursement or loan. In addition, a billing statement for services performed shall accompany the request for reimbursement. For those owners opting to do the work without the assistance of a commercial contractor, the city shall reimburse 50% of the material costs only. The reimbursement shall not exceed \$500.

Example:

- 1) \$3,000, 3%, 5 years
- 2) \$4,000, 3%, 7 years
- 3) \$5,000, 3%, 8 years
- 4) \$5,500, 3%, 9 years
- 5) \$7,000, 3%, 10 years

For those property owners who opt not to repair the illegal connection from the sanitary sewer after the 90-day period, a \$50.00 per month fee shall be applied to the utility bill until the disconnection has been performed, but not to exceed 1 year. By the end of the 1-year period, the owner shall have completed the disconnection.

If the owner has failed to repair the illegal connection the monthly fee will increase to \$70.00 until repairs have been made. By the end of the second 1-year period, the owner shall have completed the disconnection. If the owner has failed to repair the illegal connection the City will seek to enforce this policy using all lawful means, including but not limited to the prosecution of a municipal infraction which could result in a civil penalty, court cost, and / or a court order requiring that repairs be made within a certain time period.

Provisions of this policy may be waived by the City Council.

Reference of City Ordinances:

- 94.00 Time of Sales Inspections
- 95.07 Right of Entry
- 97.01 Storm Water
- 97.05 Restricted Discharge Powers
- 99.05 User Charges

*Adopted by City Council on November 17, 1986; amended September 5, 1995; amended June 15, 1998; amended September 5, 2006; amended July 16, 2007; amended June 2, 2008, amended 2010, amended 2013, amended May 1, 2017*