

SEWER ORDINANCE

Sec. 20-71 Unauthorized connections

No person shall make connection of roof downspouts, exterior foundation drains, lawn drains, areaway drains, sump pump discharge or other sources of surface runoff or groundwater to a building sewer or building drain which in turn is connected directly or indirectly to a public sanitary sewer.

To confirm that any property using Town of Southington public sanitary sewer is in conformance with this section, the Town shall conduct inspections using town personnel from various departments and/or subcontractors. Inspections shall be performed on a street-by-street approach in which inspectors shall knock on doors and attempt to inspect as many properties as possible. For properties that could not be inspected because the owner was not available, a notice shall be left at the door stating that the inspectors were there and would attempt a second time in approximately one to two weeks.

When the owner is available, the inspectors will introduce themselves and explain briefly that the Town is conducting house-to-house inspections in an attempt to reduce the amount of clean water that enters the public sanitary sewer system. If the owner or tenant does not feel comfortable with allowing the inspectors in to or on the property, the owner or tenant shall have the option of deferring to a specific date, or calling the police department to verify the inspector's identity or requesting a time when a police officer can escort the inspectors on to the property.

The owner will be notified in a form that confirms receipt that failure to allow the inspectors into the home as set forth above will result in a sewer inflow penalty of \$100.00 dollars per month, billed on a monthly basis. Inspections shall only be conducted if the owner, tenant or adult representative of the property is present at the time. If the owner wishes to defer an inspection for any reason, it is the owner's responsibility to reschedule the inspection. If the owner does not reschedule a deferred inspection within thirty days of the original inspection attempt, then a written notice will be sent to the owner. If the owner still is unavailable or refuses to admit the inspector, then the sewer inflow penalty as set forth above shall be applied.

There will also be a penalty charge of \$500.00 for reconnection. If there is a reconnect at the property after bringing the property into conformity, a \$500.00 reconnect penalty shall be applied in addition to the \$100.00 a month sewer inflow penalty.

In the twelve month period following the passage of this ordinance, the Town will send out educational materials and have educational forums. No penalties or fines shall be applied during said twelve month period.

Inspectors will be trained by the Department of Public Works on how to conduct the inspection and how to correctly complete the inspection documentation. Inspectors will be required to carry and display Town issued photo ID badges and shall drive in clearly marked cars or vehicles designating that they are on official Town business.

Ordinance passed by the Town Council on February 28, 2011.
Effective 20 days after publication (3/4/2011), March 24, 2011.