

The City of Charlottesville Ordinance

Sec. 31-256. Definitions.

The following terms, whenever used or referred to in this article, shall have the respective meanings set forth in this section, unless the context clearly requires a contrary meaning or any such term is expressly defined to the contrary elsewhere in this chapter:

Backflow means the flow of water or other liquids, mixtures or substances into the distributing pipes of a potable supply of water from any source or sources other than its intended source.

Cross-connection means any physical connection between a potable water supply and any waste pipe, soil pipe, sewer drain or any unapproved source or system. Cross-connection includes any potable water supply outlet which is submerged or can be submerged in waste water and any other source of contamination.

Health hazard means any condition, devices or practices in the water supply system and its operation which create, or in the judgment of the chief or superintendent may create, a danger to the health and well-being of the water consumer.

Plumbing fixture means installed receptacles, devices or appliances supplied with water or that receive or discharge liquids or liquid borne wastes.

Plumbing system means the water supply and distribution pipes, plumbing fixtures and traps, soil, waste and vent pipes, building drains and building sewers including their respective connections, devices and appurtenances within the property lines of the premises, and water-treating or water-using equipment.

Pollution means the presence of any foreign substance (organic, inorganic, radiological or biological) in the water that tends to degrade its quality so as to constitute a hazard or impair the usefulness of the water.

Superintendent means the superintendent of the water division of the department of public works of the city.

Water, nonpotable, means water that is not safe for human consumption or that is of questionable potability.

Water, potable, means water free from impurities in amounts sufficient to cause disease or harmful physiological effects. Its bacteriological and chemical quality shall conform to the requirements of the Virginia Waterworks Regulations of the state department of health and the requirements of the department of public works of the city.

Water system means all structures, appliances and equipment owned and operated by the city or the Rivanna Water and Sewer Authority and used to collect, store, transport, purify and treat water for drinking or domestic use and the distribution of water to the public.

(Code 1976, § 29-18)

Sec. 31-257. Violations of article--Notice; discontinuance or denial of water service.

The director of public works shall notify the owner, or authorized agent of the owner, of any building or premises in which there is found a violation of this article of such violation. Such notice shall be in writing and shall set a reasonable time for the owner to have the violation removed or corrected. Upon failure of the owner to have the defect corrected by the end of the specified time interval the director of public works may, if in his judgment an imminent health hazard exists, cause the water service to the building or premises to be terminated or deny service to such premises.

(Code 1976, § 29-25)

Sec. 31-258. Same--Penalty.

Any owner, or authorized agent of the owner responsible for the maintenance of the plumbing systems in the building, who knowingly permits a violation of this article to remain uncorrected after the expiration of time set by the director of public works pursuant to section 31-257 shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction thereof shall be subject to a fine of not more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) for each violation. Each day of failure to comply with the requirements of this article after such specified time shall constitute a separate violation.

(Code 1976, § 29-26)

Sec. 31-259. General requirements.

Every building, premises or structure in the city shall be constructed, equipped and maintained in such a manner as to prevent the possibility of pollution of the water supply by cross-connection or backflow of liquids.

(Code 1976, § 29-19)

Sec. 31-260. Cross-connections prohibited.

(a) The city potable water supply system shall be designed, installed and maintained in such a manner as to prevent contamination from nonpotable liquids, solids or gases from being introduced into the potable water supply through cross-connections or any other piping connections to the system.

(b) Cross-connections between the city potable water system and other systems or equipment containing water or other substances of unknown or questionable safety are prohibited except when and where, as approved by the superintendent or the building official, suitable protective devices such as the reduced pressure zone backflow preventer or equal are installed, tested and maintained to ensure proper operation on a continuing basis.

(Code 1976, § 29-20)

Sec. 31-261. Backflow and backsiphonage prohibited.

The city potable water system shall be protected against backflow and backsiphonage by installing and maintaining at all fixtures, equipment and outlets, where backflow or backsiphonage may occur, a suitable backflow preventer as approved by the superintendent or the building official.

(Code 1976, § 29-21)

Sec. 31-262. Responsibility of building official.

(a) The building official shall inspect the plumbing within every building in the city as frequently as in his judgment may be necessary to ensure that such plumbing has been installed and maintained in such a manner as to prevent the possibility of pollution of the water supply of the city through the plumbing.

(b) The building official shall have the right of entry into any building, during reasonable hours, for the purpose of making inspection of the plumbing systems installed in such building or premises for cross-connection or backflow problems caused by improper installation, repair or maintenance, faulty equipment or other causes. Upon request, the owner or occupants of property served by the city water system shall furnish to the building official pertinent information regarding the piping system on such property. In the event the owner or occupant of any building refuses to permit such inspection or furnish such information, the director of public works may order water service to such property to be discontinued.

(Code 1976, § 29-22)

Sec. 31-263. Responsibility of superintendent.

(a) The superintendent shall inspect all water lines, appliances and equipment owned and operated by the city within its boundaries and used to collect, store, transport, purify and treat water for drinking or domestic use, and lines used to distribute water to each building's plumbing system up to the point where it enters the building, as frequently as in his judgment may be necessary to ensure that system has been installed in such a manner as to prevent the possibility of pollution of the water supply of the city through the distribution system.

(b) The superintendent shall have the right of entry into any building, during reasonable hours, for the purpose of making inspection of the plumbing systems installed in such building or premises for cross-connection or backflow problems caused by improper installation, repair or maintenance, faulty equipment or other causes. Upon request, the owner or occupants of property served by the city water system shall furnish to the superintendent pertinent information regarding the piping system on such property. In the event the owner or occupant of any building refuses to permit such inspection or furnish such information, the director of public works may order water service to such property to be discontinued.

(Code 1976, § 29-23)

Sec. 31-264. Compliance with applicable rules and regulations.

Any cross-connection or backflow prevention device or system shall be designed, installed and maintained in such a manner as to be in compliance with the Cross-Connection Control Manual, United States Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Water Programs, Water Supply Division, 1973, the plumbing sections of the Virginia Uniform Statewide Building Code, section 6.00 of the Virginia Waterworks Regulations entitled "Cross-Connection and Backflow Prevention Control in Waterworks," and the department of public works cross-connection and backflow prevention control program, copies of all of which are on file in the offices of the water division and inspections division of the public works department.

(Code 1976, § 29-24)