

## CHAPTER 105

### SOLID WASTE CONTROL

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**105.01 PURPOSE.** The purpose of the chapters in this Code of Ordinances pertaining to Solid Waste Control and Collection is to provide for the sanitary storage, collection, and disposal of solid waste and, thereby, to protect the citizens of the City from such hazards to their health, safety and welfare as may result from the uncontrolled disposal of solid waste.

**105.02 DEFINITIONS.** For use in these chapters the following terms are defined:

1. "Collector" means any person authorized to gather solid waste from public and private places.
2. "Discard" means to place, cause to be placed, throw, deposit, or drop.  
*(Code of Iowa, Sec. 455B.361[2])*
3. "Dwelling unit" means any room or group of rooms located within a structure and forming a single habitable unit with facilities that are used or are intended to be used for living, sleeping, cooking, and eating.
4. "Garbage" means all solid and semisolid, putrescible animal and vegetable waste resulting from the handling, preparing, cooking, storing, serving and consuming of food or of material intended for use as food, and all offal, excluding useful industrial by-products, and includes all such substances from all public and private establishments and from all residences.  
*(IAC, 567-100.2)*
5. "Landscape waste" means any vegetable or plant waste except garbage. The term includes trees, tree trimmings, branches, stumps, brush, weeds, leaves, grass, shrubbery, and yard trimmings.  
*(IAC, 567-20.2[455B])*
6. "Litter" means any garbage, rubbish, trash, refuse, waste materials, or debris.  
*(Code of Iowa, Sec. 455B.361[1])*
7. "Owner" means, in addition to the record titleholder, any person residing in, renting, leasing, occupying, operating or transacting business in any premises, and as between such parties the duties, responsibilities, liabilities and obligations hereinafter imposed shall be joint and several.
8. "Refuse" means putrescible and non-putrescible waste, including but not limited to garbage, rubbish, ashes, incinerator residues, street cleanings, market and industrial solid waste and sewage treatment waste in dry or semisolid form.  
*(IAC, 567-100.2)*

9. "Residential premises" means a single-family dwelling and any multiple-family dwelling up to and including four separate dwelling units.

10. "Residential waste" means any refuse generated on the premises as a result of residential activities. The term includes landscape waste grown on the premises or deposited thereon by the elements, but excludes garbage, tires, trade wastes and any locally recyclable goods or plastics.

(IAC, 567-20.2[455B])

11. "Rubbish" means non-putrescible solid waste consisting of combustible and non-combustible waste, such as ashes, paper, cardboard, tin cans, yard clippings, wood, glass, bedding, crockery, or litter of any kind.

(IAC, 567-100.2)

12. "Sanitary disposal" means a method of treating solid waste so that it does not produce a hazard to the public health or safety or create a nuisance.

(IAC, 567-100.2)

13. "Sanitary disposal project" means all facilities and appurtenances (including all real and personal property connected with such facilities) that are acquired, purchased, constructed, reconstructed, equipped, improved, extended, maintained, or operated to facilitate the final disposition of solid waste without creating a significant hazard to the public health or safety, and which are approved by the Director of the State Department of Natural Resources.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 455B.301)

14. "Solid waste" means garbage, refuse, rubbish, and other similar discarded solid or semisolid materials, including but not limited to such materials resulting from industrial, commercial, agricultural, and domestic activities. Solid waste may include vehicles, as defined by Section 321.1 of the *Code of Iowa*. Solid waste does not include any of the following:

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 455B.301)

A. Hazardous waste regulated under the Federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, 42 U.S.C. § 6921-6934.

B. Hazardous waste as defined in Section 455B.411 of the *Code of Iowa*, except to the extent that rules allowing for the disposal of specific wastes have been adopted by the State Environmental Protection Commission.

C. Source, special nuclear, or by-product material as defined in the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended to January 1, 1979.

D. Petroleum contaminated soil that has been remediated to acceptable State or Federal standards.

**105.03 SANITARY DISPOSAL REQUIRED.** It is the duty of each owner to provide for the sanitary disposal of all refuse accumulating on the owner's premises before it becomes a nuisance. Any such accumulation remaining on any premises for a period of more than thirty (30) days shall be deemed a nuisance and the City may proceed to abate such nuisances in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 50 or by initiating proper action in district court.

(Code of Iowa, Ch. 657)

**105.04 HEALTH AND FIRE HAZARD.** It is unlawful for any person to permit to accumulate on any premises, improved or vacant, or on any public place, such quantities of solid waste that constitute a health, sanitation or fire hazard.



**105.05 OPEN BURNING RESTRICTED.** No person shall allow, cause or permit open burning of combustible materials where the products of combustion are emitted into the open air without passing through a chimney or stack, except that open burning is permitted in the following circumstances:

*(IAC, 567-23.2[455B] and 567-100.2)*

1. **Disaster Rubbish.** The open burning of rubbish, including landscape waste, for the duration of the community disaster period in cases where an officially declared emergency condition exists, provided that the burning of any structures or demolished structures is conducted in accordance with 40 CFR Section 61.145.

*(IAC, 567-23.2[3a])*

2. **Trees and Tree Trimmings.** The open burning of trees and tree trimmings at a City-operated burning site, provided such burning is conducted in compliance with the rules established by the State Department of Natural Resources.

*(IAC, 567-23.2[3b])*

3. **Flare Stacks.** The open burning or flaring of waste gases, provided such open burning or flaring is conducted in compliance with applicable rules of the State Department of Natural Resources.

*(IAC, 567-23.2[3c])*

4. **Recreational Fires.** Open fires for cooking, heating, recreation, and ceremonies, provided they comply with the limits for emission of visible air contaminants established by the State Department of Natural Resources. Rubber tires shall not be burned in a recreational fire.

*(IAC, 567-23.2[3e])*

5. **Training Fires.** Fires set for the purpose of conducting bona fide training of public or industrial employees in firefighting methods, provided that the training fires are conducted in compliance with rules established by the State Department of Natural Resources.

*(IAC, 567-23.2[3g])*

6. **Pesticide Containers and Seed Corn Bags.** The disposal by open burning of paper or plastic pesticide containers (except those formerly containing organic forms of beryllium, selenium, mercury, lead, cadmium or arsenic) and seed corn bags resulting from farming activities occurring on the premises if burned in accordance with rules established by the State Department of Natural Resources.

*(IAC, 567-23.2[3h])*

7. **Agricultural Structures.** The open burning of agricultural structures if in accordance with rules and limitations established by the State Department of Natural Resources.

*(IAC, 567-23.2[3i])*

8. **Controlled Burning of a Demolished Building.** The controlled burning of a demolished building by the City, subject to approval of the Council, provided that the controlled burning is conducted in accordance with rules and limitations established by the State Department of Natural Resources.

*(IAC, 567-23.2[3j])*

9. Variance. Any person wishing to conduct open burning of materials not permitted herein may make application for a variance to the Director of the State Department of Natural Resources.

*(IAC, 567-23.2[2])*

**105.06 SEPARATION OF YARD WASTE REQUIRED.** All yard waste shall be separated by the owner or occupant from all other solid waste accumulated on the premises and shall be composted on the premises or deposited at a yard waste disposal site. As used in this section, "yard waste" means any debris such as grass clippings, leaves, garden waste, brush, and trees. Yard waste does not include tree stumps.

**105.07 LITTERING PROHIBITED.** No person shall discard any litter onto or in any water or land, except that nothing in this section shall be construed to affect the authorized collection and discarding of such litter in or on areas or receptacles provided for such purpose. When litter is discarded from a motor vehicle, the driver of the motor vehicle shall be responsible for the act in any case where doubt exists as to which occupant of the motor vehicle actually discarded the litter.

*(Code of Iowa, Sec. 455B.363)*

**105.08 OPEN DUMPING PROHIBITED.** No person shall dump or deposit or permit the dumping or depositing of any solid waste on the surface of the ground or into a body or stream of water at any place other than a sanitary disposal project approved by the Director of the State Department of Natural Resources, unless a special permit to dump or deposit solid waste on land owned or leased by such person has been obtained from the Director of the State Department of Natural Resources. However, this section does not prohibit the use of rubble at places other than a sanitary disposal project. "Rubble" means dirt, stone, brick, or similar inorganic materials used for beneficial fill, landscaping, excavation, or grading at places other than a sanitary disposal project. Rubble includes asphalt waste only as long as it is not used in contact with water or in a flood plain. For purposes of this section, rubble does not mean gypsum or gypsum wallboard, coal combustion residue, foundry sand, or industrial process wastes unless those wastes are approved by the State Department of Natural Resources.

*(Code of Iowa, Sec. 455B.301, Sec. 455B.307 and IAC, 567-100.2)*

**105.09 TOXIC AND HAZARDOUS WASTE.** No person shall deposit in a solid waste container or otherwise offer for collection any toxic or hazardous waste. Such materials shall be transported and disposed of as prescribed by the Director of the State Department of Natural Resources. As used in this section, "toxic and hazardous waste" means waste materials, including (but not limited to) poisons, pesticides, herbicides, acids, caustics, pathological waste, flammable or explosive materials, and similar harmful waste that requires special handling and that must be disposed of in such a manner as to conserve the environment and protect the public health and safety.

*(IAC, 567-100.2)*

*(IAC, 567-102.13[2] and 400-27.14[2])*

**105.10 WASTE STORAGE CONTAINERS.** Every person owning, managing, operating, leasing, or renting any premises, dwelling unit or any place where refuse accumulates shall provide and at all times maintain in good order and repair portable containers for refuse in accordance with the following:

1. Container Specifications. Waste storage containers shall comply with the following specifications:



A. Residential. Residential waste containers, whether they are reusable, portable containers or heavy-duty disposable garbage bags, shall be of sufficient capacity, and leak-proof and waterproof. Disposable containers shall be securely fastened, and reusable containers shall be fitted with a fly-tight lid that shall be kept in place except when depositing or removing the contents of the container. Reusable containers shall also be lightweight and of sturdy construction and have suitable lifting devices.

B. Commercial. Every person owning, managing, operating, leasing or renting any commercial premises where an excessive amount of refuse accumulates and where its storage in portable containers as required above is impractical, shall maintain metal bulk storage containers approved by the City.

2. Storage of Containers. Residential solid waste containers shall be stored upon the residential premises. Commercial solid waste containers shall be stored upon private property, unless the owner has been granted written permission from the City to use public property for such purposes. The storage site shall be well drained and fully accessible to collection equipment, public health personnel, and fire inspection personnel. All owners of residential and commercial premises shall be responsible for proper storage of all garbage and yard waste to prevent materials from being blown or scattered around neighboring yards and streets.

3. Location of Containers for Collection. Containers for the storage of solid waste awaiting collection shall be placed at the curb or alley line by the owner or occupant of the premises served. Containers or other solid waste placed at the curb line shall not be so placed more than twenty-four (24) hours in advance of the regularly scheduled collection day and shall be promptly removed from the curb line following collection.

3. Nonconforming Containers. Solid waste placed in containers that are not in compliance with the provisions of this section will not be collected.

**105.11 PROHIBITED PRACTICES.** It is unlawful for any person to:

1. Unlawful Use of Containers. Deposit refuse in any solid waste containers not owned by such person without the written consent of the owner of such containers.

2. Interfere with Collectors. Interfere in any manner with solid waste collection equipment or with solid waste collectors in the lawful performance of their duties as such, whether such equipment or collectors be those of the City, or those of any other authorized waste collection service.

3. Incinerators. Burn rubbish or garbage except in incinerators designed for high temperature operation, in which solid, semisolid, liquid, or gaseous combustible refuse is ignited and burned efficiently, and from which the solid residues contain little or no combustible material, as acceptable to the Environmental Protection Commission.

4. Scavenging. Take or collect any solid waste that has been placed out for collection on any premises, unless such person is an authorized solid waste collector.

**105.12 DELIVERY OF RECYCLABLE MATERIALS.** All material collected from residential recycling containers shall be delivered to the site designated by the Plymouth County Solid Waste Agency. Delivery of said material to any site other than the one

designated by the agency is prohibited. Before collecting any of the recyclable material, collectors shall contact the City Clerk to determine the address of the designated site.

CITY OF MERRILL, IOWA  
ORDINANCE NO. 105.05

ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CODE OF ORDINANCES  
OF THE CITY OF MERRILL, IOWA, 2013, BY AMENDING  
PROVISIONS OF ORDINANCE NO. 105.05(4) PERTAINING TO  
RECREATIONAL FIRES CONSTITUTING AN EXCEPTION TO THE OPEN  
BURNING ORDINANCE

BE IT ENACTED by the City Council of the City of Merrill, Iowa:

SECTION ONE. SECTION MODIFIED. Section 105.05(4) of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Merrill, Iowa, 2013 is amended by adding new sections 105.05(4)(A-H), constituting specific provisions referencing recreational fires which is hereby adopted to read as follows:

105.5(4) RECREATIONAL FIRES. Open fires for cooking, heating, recreation and ceremonies provided they comply with the limits for emission of visible air contaminants established by the State Department of Natural Resources. Rubber tires shall not be burned in a recreational fire.

- A. Recreational fires constituting an exception to the open burning restriction shall, for purposes of this section, be defined specifically to include bon fires and open pit fires and/or containers wherein said bon fires and/or open pit fires be contained subject to the prohibitions specified herein.
- B. Said recreational fire or containers containing the same shall not be used on a combustible surface such as a wooden deck.
- C. All such fires shall be constantly attended by responsible adult until the fire is extinguished.
- D. All such recreational fires shall be immediately extinguished at anytime when the wind speed exceeds 15 mph, or if wind carries embers or sparks creating a potential for fire extension.
- E. All of said recreational fires shall be immediately extinguished if requested by the Merrill City Fire Chief or Assistant Fire Chief due to any unsafe conditions as determined by said City Officials.
- F. Only clean, dry firewood or charcoal may be used for such recreational fires. Yard waste and other debris are strictly prohibited. The use of flammable or combustible liquids, other than commercially produced charcoal lighter fluid to start the fire is strictly prohibited.
- G. No recreational fire located in any fire pit or other such container shall be within fifteen (15) feet of any building structure or public right of way.
- H. Approved containers for such recreational fires shall be defined as devices specifically designed for the use of burning wood or charcoal including but



not limited to portable fire places, fire pits or chimneas. All portable devices shall be equipped with a functional spark arrestor (i.e. screen or chimney). An approved container made of stone, metal or ceramic construction designed for the purpose of containing a fire shall also be permitted provided the total fuel area does not exceed 3 feet in diameter and 2 feet in height. Wood contained in permissible fires shall be no more than 3 feet in length.

SECTION TWO. REPEALER. All ordinances or parts of Ordinances in conflict with the provisions stated in this Ordinance amendment are hereby repealed.

SECTION THREE. SEVERABILITY CLAUSE. If any provision or part of this Ordinance shall be adjudged invalid or unconstitutional, such adjudication shall not affect the validity of the Ordinance as a whole or any section, provision or part thereof not adjudged invalid or unconstitutional.

SECTION FOUR. WHEN EFFECTIVE. This Ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its final passage, approval and publication as provided by law.

PASSED by the City Council of the City of Merrill, Iowa this 17<sup>TH</sup> day of April, 2017.

APPROVED by the City Council of the City of Merrill, Iowa this 17<sup>TH</sup> day of April, 2017.

CITY OF MERRILL, IOWA

ATTEST:

BY:   
RICHARD HUSMAN, MAYOR

  
MARGARET MARIENAU, CITY CLERK

First Reading: 04/17/2017

Second Reading: Waived

Third Reading: Waived

I CERTIFY that the foregoing is published by posting as Ordinance Chapter 105.05(4) (A-H) on the 17<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2017.

  
MARGARET MARIENAU, CITY CLERK