

CHAPTER 136

SIDEWALK REGULATIONS

136.01 Purpose	136.10 Failure to Repair or Barricade
136.02 Definitions	136.11 Interference with Sidewalk Improvements
136.03 Removal of Snow, Ice and Accumulations	136.12 Awnings
136.04 Responsibility for Maintenance	136.13 Encroaching Steps
136.05 City May Order Repairs	136.14 Openings and Enclosures
136.06 Sidewalk Construction Ordered	136.15 Fires or Fuel on Sidewalks
136.07 Permit Required	136.16 Defacing
136.08 Sidewalk Standards	136.17 Debris on Sidewalks
136.09 Barricades and Warning Lights	136.18 Merchandise Display
	136.19 Sales Stands

136.01 PURPOSE. The purpose of this chapter is to enhance safe passage by citizens on sidewalks, to place the responsibility for the maintenance, repair, replacement or reconstruction of sidewalks upon the abutting property owner and to minimize the liability of the City.

136.02 DEFINITIONS. For use in this chapter the following terms are defined:

1. "Broom finish" means a sidewalk finish that is made by sweeping the sidewalk when it is hardening.
2. "Established grade" means that grade established by the City for the particular area in which a sidewalk is to be constructed.
3. "One-course construction" means that the full thickness of the concrete is placed at one time, using the same mixture throughout.
4. "Owner" means the person owning the fee title to property abutting any sidewalk and includes any contract purchaser for purposes of notification required herein. For all other purposes, "owner" includes the lessee, if any.
5. "Portland cement" means any type of cement except bituminous cement.
6. "Sidewalk" means all permanent public walks in business, residential or suburban areas.
7. "Sidewalk improvements" means the construction, reconstruction, repair, replacement or removal, of a public sidewalk and/or the excavating, filling or depositing of material in the public right-of-way in connection therewith.
8. "Wood float finish" means a sidewalk finish that is made by smoothing the surface of the sidewalk with a wooden trowel.

136.03 REMOVAL OF SNOW, ICE AND ACCUMULATIONS. It is the responsibility of the abutting property owners to remove snow, ice and accumulations promptly from sidewalks. If a property owner does not remove snow, ice or accumulations within twenty-four (24) hours after snow stops falling or after the end of an ice storm, the City may do so and assess the costs against the property owner for collection in the same manner as a property tax.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 364.12[2b & e])

136.04 RESPONSIBILITY FOR MAINTENANCE. It is the responsibility of the abutting property owners to maintain in a safe and hazard-free condition any sidewalk outside the lot and property lines and inside the curb lines or traveled portion of the public street.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 364.12[2c])

136.05 CITY MAY ORDER REPAIRS. If the abutting property owner does not maintain sidewalks as required, the Council may serve notice on such owner, by certified mail, requiring the owner to repair, replace or reconstruct sidewalks within a reasonable time and if such action is not completed within the time stated in the notice, the Council may require the work to be done and assess the costs against the abutting property for collection in the same manner as a property tax.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 364.12[2d & e])

136.06 SIDEWALK CONSTRUCTION ORDERED. The Council may order the construction of permanent sidewalks upon any street or court in the City and may specially assess the cost of such improvement to abutting property owners in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 384 of the Code of Iowa.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 384.38)

136.07 PERMIT REQUIRED. No person shall remove, reconstruct or install a sidewalk unless such person has obtained a permit from the City and has agreed in writing that said removal, reconstruction or installation will comply with all ordinances and requirements of the City for such work.

136.08 SIDEWALK STANDARDS. Sidewalks repaired, replaced or constructed under the provisions of this chapter shall be of the following construction and meet the following standards:

1. Cement. Portland cement shall be the only cement used in the construction and repair of sidewalks.
2. Construction. Sidewalks shall be of one-course construction.
3. Sidewalk Base. Concrete may be placed directly on compact and well-drained soil. Where soil is not well drained, a three (3) inch sub-base of compact, clean, coarse gravel or sand shall be laid. The adequacy of the soil drainage is to be determined by the City.
4. Sidewalk Bed. The sidewalk bed shall be so graded that the constructed sidewalk will be at established grade.
5. Length, Width and Depth. Length, width and depth requirements are as follows:
 - A. Residential sidewalks shall be sized to conform with the neighboring property sidewalks, but in no case shall such sidewalks be less than three (3) feet wide and four (4) inches thick, and each section shall be no more than six (6) feet in length.
 - B. Business District sidewalks shall extend from the property line to the curb. Each section shall be four (4) inches thick and no more than six (6) feet in length.
 - C. Driveway areas shall be not less than six (6) inches in thickness.