

CHAPTER 136

SIDEWALK REGULATIONS

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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. “Defective sidewalk” means any public sidewalk exhibiting one or more of the following characteristics:
 - A. Vertical separations equal to three-fourths ($\frac{3}{4}$) inch or more.
 - B. Horizontal separations equal to one (1) inch or more.
 - C. Holes or depressions equal to three-fourths ($\frac{3}{4}$) inch or more and at least four (4) inches in diameter.
 - D. Spalling over fifty percent (50%) of a single square of the sidewalk with one or more depressions equal to one-half ($\frac{1}{2}$) inch or more.
 - E. Spalling over less than fifty percent (50%) of a single square of the sidewalk with one or more depressions equal to three-fourths ($\frac{3}{4}$) inch or more.
 - F. A single square of sidewalk cracked in such a manner that no part thereof has a piece greater than one square foot.
 - G. A sidewalk with any part thereof missing to the full depth.
 - H. A change from the design or construction grade equal to or greater than three-fourths ($\frac{3}{4}$) inch per foot.
3. “Established grade” means that grade established by the City for the particular area in which a sidewalk is to be constructed.
4. “One-course construction” means that the full thickness of the concrete is placed at one time, using the same mixture throughout.
5. “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.

6. “Portland cement” means any type of cement except bituminous cement.
7. “Sidewalk” means all permanent public walks in business, residential or suburban areas.
8. “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.
9. “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 a reasonable time, 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 repair, replace or reconstruct, or cause to be repaired, replaced or reconstructed, all broken or defective sidewalks and 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 right-of-way 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*. However, when pertaining to subdivision sidewalk improvement installations, the following shall apply: The City shall not order any owner or subdivider to construct permanent sidewalks upon any right-of-way for a period of up to one year from the approval of the final subdivision plat or not before such time as the owner or subdivider has sold 75 percent of the lots in the subdivision, whichever may occur first. This shall not exempt the subdivider or owner from any requirements of the Subdivision Ordinance, including (but not limited to) any requirement of a surety bond or escrow agreement or requirements involved with the transference of a lot without constructing improvements.

(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 constructed in accordance with the City Design Standards.

136.09 BARRICADES AND WARNING LIGHTS. Whenever any material of any kind is deposited on any street, avenue, highway, passageway or alley when sidewalk improvements are being made or when any sidewalk is in a dangerous condition, it shall be the duty of all persons having an interest therein, either as the contractor or the owner, agent, or lessee of the property in front of or along which

such material may be deposited, or such dangerous condition exists, to put in conspicuous places at each end of such sidewalk and at each end of any pile of material deposited in the street, a sufficient number of approved warning lights or flares, and to keep them lighted during the entire night and to erect sufficient barricades both at night and in the daytime to secure the same. The party or parties using the street for any of the purposes specified in this chapter shall be liable for all injuries or damage to persons or property arising from any wrongful act or negligence of the party or parties, or their agents or employees or for any misuse of the privileges conferred by this chapter or of any failure to comply with provisions hereof.

136.10 FAILURE TO REPAIR OR BARRICADE. It is the duty of the owner of the property abutting the sidewalk, or the owner's contractor or agent, to notify the City immediately in the event of failure or inability to make necessary sidewalk improvements or to install or erect necessary barricades as required by this chapter.

136.11 INTERFERENCE WITH SIDEWALK IMPROVEMENTS. No person shall knowingly or willfully drive any vehicle upon any portion of any sidewalk or approach thereto while in the process of being improved or upon any portion of any completed sidewalk or approach thereto, or shall remove or destroy any part or all of any sidewalk or approach thereto, or shall remove, destroy, mar or deface any sidewalk at any time or destroy, mar, remove or deface any notice provided by this chapter.

136.12 AWNINGS. It is unlawful for a person to erect or maintain any awning over any sidewalk unless all parts of the awning are elevated at least eight (8) feet above the surface of the sidewalk and the roof or covering is made of duck, canvas or other suitable material supported by iron frames or brackets securely fastened to the building, without any posts or other device that will obstruct the sidewalk or hinder or interfere with the free passage of pedestrians.

136.13 ENCROACHING STEPS. It is unlawful for a person to erect or maintain any stairs or steps to any building upon any part of any sidewalk without permission by resolution of the Council.

136.14 OPENINGS AND ENCLOSURES. It is unlawful for a person to:

1. Stairs and Railings. Construct or build a stairway or passageway to any cellar or basement by occupying any part of the sidewalk, or to enclose any portion of a sidewalk with a railing without permission by resolution of the Council.
2. Openings. Keep open any cellar door, grating, or cover to any vault on any sidewalk except while in actual use with adequate guards to protect the public.
3. Protect Openings. Neglect to properly protect or barricade all openings on or within six (6) feet of any sidewalk.

136.15 FIRES OR FUEL ON SIDEWALKS. It is unlawful for a person to make a fire of any kind on any sidewalk or to place or allow any fuel to remain upon any sidewalk.

136.16 DEFACING. It is unlawful for a person to scatter or place any paste, paint, or writing on any sidewalk.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 716.1)

136.17 DEBRIS ON SIDEWALKS. It is unlawful for a person to throw or deposit on any sidewalk any glass, nails, glass bottle, tacks, wire, cans, trash, garbage, rubbish, litter, offal, or any other debris, or any substance likely to injure any person, animal, or vehicle.

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

136.18 MERCHANDISE DISPLAY. It is unlawful for a person to place upon or above any sidewalk, any goods or merchandise for sale or for display in such a manner as to interfere with the free and uninterrupted passage of pedestrians on the sidewalk; in no case shall more than three (3) feet of the sidewalk next to the building be occupied for such purposes.

136.19 SALES STANDS. It is unlawful for a person to erect or keep any vending machine or stand for the sale of fruit, vegetables or other substances or commodities on any sidewalk without first obtaining a written permit from the Council.