

## 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.**

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

1. 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 twelve hours after the accumulation of snow or ice, the City may do so and assess the cost against the property owner for collection in the same manner as a property tax.

2. The owner of any lot or parcel who fails to remove snow, ice and accumulations from sidewalks shall be liable to any person injured as a result of such failure to maintain the sidewalk and shall further save, defend, indemnify and hold harmless the City from and against any claim arising out of the failure to maintain said sidewalk. In the event the City takes any action or fails to take any action, the City does not assume or accept any responsibility for the property or snow or ice or accumulations thereof and regardless of the acts of the City the responsibility remains that of the property owner.

*(Ord. 43 – Jun. 10 Supp.)*

### **136.04 RESPONSIBILITY FOR MAINTENANCE.**

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

1. 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.

2. The owner of any lot or parcel who fails to maintain said sidewalk shall be liable to any person injured as a result of such failure to maintain the sidewalk and shall further save, defend, indemnify, and hold harmless the City from and against any claim arising out of the failure to maintain said sidewalk. In the event the City takes any action or fails to take any action, the City does not assume or accept any responsibility for the property and regardless of the acts of the City, the responsibility remains that of the property owner.

*(Ord. 44 – Jun. 10 Supp.)*

**136.05 CITY MAY ORDER REPAIRS.** If the abutting property owner does not maintain sidewalks as required and/or if any of the following sidewalk criteria for repair or replacing exists:

1. A vertical separation of one (1) inch or more.
2. Sidewalk is cracked into four (4) or more pieces per four (4) foot linear sections and/or have a vertical difference of one (1) inch or more.
3. A part of the sidewalk is missing for the whole depth.
4. A side to side slope of greater than one inch per foot.
5. Holes or depressions one (1) inch more in depth.
6. A horizontal separation of one (1) inch or more.

Council may serve notice on such owner, by certified mail, requiring the owner to repair, replace or reconstruct sidewalks within 60 calendar days from the notification letter date. All work shall be subject to inspection by the City during construction and upon completion. A copy of the sidewalk standards must be obtained from the City before construction starts. The City will re-inspect the sidewalk after the 60 days have passed. Property owners will be notified if the sidewalk passed or failed inspection. If nothing is done in the 60 days 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.

*(Ord. 23 – Jul. 02 Supp.)*

*(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, sand, or cinders 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 at least four (4) feet wide or match the abutting sidewalk, whichever is wider, and three and a half (3½) inches thick, and each section shall be no more than four (4) feet in length. *(Ord. 7 - Jun. 98 Supp.)*

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.

6. Location. Residential sidewalks shall be located with the inner edge (edge nearest the abutting private property) on the property line, unless the Council establishes a different distance due to special circumstances.

7. Grade. Curb tops shall be on level with the centerline of the street which shall be the established grade.

8. Elevations. The street edge of a sidewalk shall be at an elevation even with the curb at the curb or not less than one-half (½) inch above the curb for each foot between the curb and the sidewalk.

9. Slope. All sidewalks shall slope one-quarter (¼) inch per foot toward the curb.

10. Finish. All sidewalks shall be finished with a “broom” or “wood float” finish.

11. Ramps for Handicapped. There shall be not less than two (2) curb cuts or ramps per lineal block which shall be located on or near the crosswalks at intersections. Each curb cut or ramp shall be at least thirty (30) inches wide, shall be sloped at not greater than one inch of rise per twelve (12) inches lineal distance, except that a slope no greater than one inch of rise per eight (8) inches lineal distance may be used where necessary, shall have a nonskid surface, and shall otherwise be so constructed as to allow reasonable access to the crosswalk for physically handicapped persons using the sidewalk.

*(Code of Iowa, Sec. 216C.9)*

**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 FUELS 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.