

**TOWN OF BIG RIVER
BYLAW NO. 2025-12**

A BYLAW TO REGULATE THE USE AND CONSUMPTION OF WATER FROM THE MUNICIPAL WATERWORKS SYSTEM AND THE CONNECTION OF PROPERTY WITH SEWER AND WATERWORKS

WHEREAS, the Council of the Town of Big River deems it necessary to regulate the use of water from the municipal waterworks system and the connection of properties to the sewer and waterworks system;

NOW THEREFORE, the Council of the Town of Big River enacts as follows:

1. Title

This Bylaw may be cited as “**The Sewer and Water Bylaw.**”

2. Definitions

Unless the context otherwise requires, the following definitions shall apply:

- **Administrator** – The Clerk, Secretary-Treasurer, or Treasurer of the Town of Big River.
- **Council** – The elected Council of the Town of Big River.
- **Person** – Includes any firm, corporation, partnership, or association.
- **Town Maintenance Man** – The individual responsible for municipal maintenance services.
- **Sewer** – All sewer and drainage systems owned or controlled by the Town of Big River.
- **Sewer Connection** – Any piping system that conveys sewage, stormwater, or waste from premises to the sewer.
- **Sewage** – Wastewater of domestic, commercial, or industrial origin, including stormwater and snowmelt.
- **Premises** – Any property or building.
- **Properly Shredded Garbage** – Organic food waste shredded so no particle exceeds ½ inch, capable of flowing freely in sewers.
- **Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD)** – Oxygen used in decomposing organic matter over five days at 20°C, expressed in ppm.
- **pH** – A measure of acidity/alkalinity; the reciprocal of hydrogen ion concentration.

3. Connection Requirements

All principal buildings constructed or relocated onto serviced land must be connected to the municipal water and/or sewer systems.

4. Water Metering

All connections, excluding those belonging to the Town, must have water meters:

- Supplied by the Town.
- Deposit required from the owner or tenant.
- 5/8” for residential, larger for commercial.
- Located for easy access.

5. Water Rationing

The Town may ration water as needed.

6. Tampering with Meters

Tampering with, bypassing, or restoring a disconnected meter is prohibited. Offenders are liable for fines, costs, and service disconnection.

7. Unauthorized Water Use

It is unlawful to lend, dispose of, waste, or exceed agreed water usage.

8. Right of Entry

Town staff may enter premises to read meters, inspect connections, or verify proper water use. Refusal constitutes an offence.

9. Owner Responsibilities

Owners must maintain all internal service lines and plumbing fixtures. No branches shall be made between the meter and curb stop.

10. Vacating Premises

Occupants must notify the Town Administrator at least one week prior to vacating.

11. Town Liability

The Town is not liable for damages from service interruptions or bylaw violations.

12. Connection and Installation Requirements

12.1 Application and Inspection

1. All water or sewer connections require prior application and approval from the Town.
2. Installation must follow Town specifications.
3. No backfilling or activation is allowed without Town inspection and approval.

12.2 Property Owner Responsibilities

- (a) All costs of connection are the owner's responsibility.
- (b) Installation of service lines to municipal mains is at the owner's expense.
- (c) All work must be completed by a certified plumbing contractor:
 - Licensed in Saskatchewan
 - Holding valid liability insurance
 - Proof must be provided upon request
 - Hold a current Business License in the Town of Big River
- (d) All installations must follow:
 - The National Plumbing Code of Canada
 - Saskatchewan Building Code Regulations
 - The Public Health Act and Private Sewage Works Regulations
 - All applicable Town bylaws and standards

13. Curbstop and Cost-Sharing

- The curbstop is owned by the Town.
- The property owner is responsible for the service line from the building to the curbstop.
- The Town is responsible from the curbstop to the main line.
- In cases where the curbstop requires repair or replacement, the Town may cost-share a portion of the work.
- Final decisions regarding cost-sharing will be made by Council on a case-by-case basis.

14. Curb Stop Notice and Fee Policy

1. All curb stop disconnects and reconnects require a minimum of one (1) week's notice to the Town by the property owner, except in cases of urgent or emergency situations as determined by the Town.
2. A service fee of \$30.00 shall apply to all curb stop disconnects or reconnects requested by the property owner, in accordance with the provisions of this Bylaw and Town policy.

3. Where the required one-week notice is not provided, a service fee of \$200.00 shall be charged to the property owner.
4. The Town reserves the right to delay or deny curb stop service where adequate notice has not been given or where site conditions make the request unsafe or impractical.
5. All curb stop fees shall be added to the utility account of the property and are subject to the same collection and penalty provisions as outlined in this Bylaw.

15. New Installations

All new service lines must be installed at the owner's cost and according to this Bylaw.

16. Water Suitability

Water is supplied for human consumption only. The Town makes no guarantees for other uses.

17. Charges and Liens

All charges under this Bylaw are a preferential lien and collectible like property taxes.

18. Utility Billing and Account Administration

1. Billing Frequency:

Utility bills shall be issued quarterly by the Town of Big River to the registered property owner as recorded on the municipal tax roll.

2. Rented Properties:

Where a property is rented or leased, a copy of the utility bill may be provided to the tenant or renter upon written authorization from the property owner.

- o The property owner remains responsible for all utility charges and arrears associated with the property, regardless of any private rental or lease arrangement.
- o Failure of a tenant to pay a utility bill does not relieve the property owner from payment obligations.

3. Delinquent Accounts:

- a. The Town shall monitor utility accounts regularly to identify accounts in arrears.
- b. Utility accounts that remain unpaid for more than 90 days past the billing due date shall be considered in arrears.
- c. On January 1 of each year, all outstanding utility account balances over 90 days in arrears shall be transferred to the property tax roll for collection in accordance with Section 369 of *The Municipalities Act*.

4. Penalties on Arrears:

A 6% penalty shall be applied to all utility account amounts transferred to the tax roll in accordance with this Section. The penalty shall be added to the outstanding balance and collected in the same manner as property taxes.

5. Service Disconnection for Non-Payment:

Where a property's utility account remains in arrears for more than 90 days, and a tax lien exists or has been transferred to taxes, the Town may disconnect water service until the account is paid in full and brought into good standing.

- o Reconnection shall not occur until all outstanding arrears, penalties, and reconnection fees are paid in full.

6. Exceptions:

In extraordinary circumstances, Council may, at its discretion, authorize payment arrangements or temporarily defer collection or disconnection actions.

19. Reconnection

Water service disconnected due to contravention of this Bylaw will be subject to a reconnection charge as set out in the applicable bylaw. No reconnection will occur until all fees and arrears are paid in full.

20. Waste Disposal Prohibition

It is unlawful to deposit any human or animal waste, garbage, or objectionable material in an unsanitary manner or to discharge untreated waste into any natural outlet within Town limits.

21. Private Systems

Private systems are allowed only if public systems are unavailable and shall be discontinued when public services become available.

22. Backflow Prevention

Premises must install and maintain a backflow prevention valve.

- Must follow all applicable codes and legislation.
- All costs are the owner's responsibility.
- The Town is not liable for damage due to absence or failure of backflow prevention devices.

23. Connection Permission Revocation

Connection permissions may be revoked at any time. The Town is not liable for any resulting damages or losses.

24. Compliance with Codes and Standards

1. All work must comply with the National Plumbing Code, The Construction Codes Act, The Public Health Act, and all municipal bylaws.
2. Sewer/water connections in streets/lanes must be completed by Town forces unless authorized otherwise.
3. Only certified plumbing contractors may perform connection work. One week's notice must be given before work begins.

25. Special and Abandoned Connections

- Special connections require Council approval.
- Must be removed when public services become available.
- Abandoned connections must be sealed to Town standards.
- Unused connections require Town approval before reuse.

26. Owner's Responsibility and Indemnification for Sewer Connections

The owner shall indemnify the Town against any damages or costs resulting from the construction, existence, or removal of a special connection.

27. Prohibited Discharges

No person shall discharge into the sewer system any:

- Liquid over 65°C
- Grease/oils >100 ppm
- Explosives or flammables
- Improperly shredded garbage
- Animal byproducts or waste
- Corrosive or toxic materials
- Obstructive or odorous materials
- Industrial waste without permission

28. Grease, Oil, and Sand Interceptors

- Required for restaurants and food establishments.
- Must comply with the National Plumbing Code.
- Must be maintained and subject to inspection.
- Discharges of grease or oil are prohibited if harmful to the sewer system.

29. Commercial Garbage Grinders

Grinders over 1 HP require written Town approval.

30. Industrial Waste Limits and Pre-Treatment Requirements

1. Discharge of industrial waste exceeding limits must be reviewed by the Town.
2. Pre-treatment is required to meet standards.
3. Plans must be approved before construction.
4. Owner must install and maintain pre-treatment systems at their own cost.

31. Control Manholes

1. Control manholes must be installed if required by the Town.
2. Must be accessible, approved, and maintained by the owner.

32. Testing Standards and Sampling Locations

- Testing must follow APHA, AWWA, and WEF standards under the Saskatchewan Environmental Management and Protection Act, 2010.
- Samples are taken from control manholes or nearest downstream manhole.

33. Protection of Infrastructure

No person shall damage, tamper with, or destroy municipal water or sewer equipment.

34. Penalties for Non-Compliance

Any person found to be in violation of this Bylaw may:

- Be prosecuted under the General Penalty Bylaw; and/or
- Have water/sewer services disconnected at the sole discretion of Council, without notice.

35. Repeal

Bylaw No. 2025-07 is hereby repealed.

Read a first time this 18th day of November, 2025.

Read a second time this 18th day of November, 2025.

Read a third time and adopted this 18th day of November, 2025.

Mayor

Administrator