

Local Order No. (8) of 2002
Concerning
Sewerage, Irrigation, and Water Drainage in the
Emirate of Dubai¹

We, Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Deputy Ruler of Dubai, Chairman of the Dubai Municipality,

After perusal of:

The powers legally vested in Us pursuant to the Order Establishing the Dubai Municipality;
Local Order No. (99) of 1996 Imposing a Fixed Fee for Using the Sewerage Network of the
Emirate of Dubai, issued on 2 March 1996; and

The presentation of the Director General of the Dubai Municipality, and

For the purpose of achieving the public interest,

Do hereby issue this Order.

Article (1)

This Order will be cited as "Local Order No. (8) of 2002 Concerning Sewerage, Irrigation, and Water Drainage in the Emirate of Dubai", and will come into force on the date on which it is published in the Official Gazette.

Chapter One

Definitions

Article (2)

The following words and expressions, wherever mentioned in this Order, will have the meaning indicated opposite each of them unless the context implies otherwise:

Emirate: The Emirate of Dubai.

DM: The Dubai Municipality.

Competent Department: The Sewerage and Irrigation Department of the DM.

Concerned Organisational Unit:	Any department, section, or division at the DM concerned with sewerage, irrigation, and water drainage.
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Person:	A natural person or a public or private legal person.
Building:	Any structure that is designated for residential purposes or for conducting an economic activity.
Owner:	A natural person or a public or private legal person in whose name land or a Building is registered, in his capacity as the owner or possessor of the same; or his legal representative.
Permit Holder:	A Person who obtains a Permit from the Competent Department to conduct any works related to sewerage, Water drainage, or Water reuse.
Public Sewerage Network:	The installations and equipment used for the collection, transportation, and delivery of Wastewater to treatment or drainage facilities. This includes pipelines, storage tanks, inspection chambers, pumping stations, Manholes, ventilation valves, and other related installations.
Private Sewerage Network:	Sewerage installations within a Building and any connected components, including traps, Manholes, and inspection chambers located within the boundaries of the land on which the Building is constructed, up to the point of connection with the Public Sewerage Network.
Rainwater Drainage Network:	All installations for draining rainwater, groundwater, and surface water, including associated drainage points, Cesspools, pumping stations, culverts, and other related installations.
Public Irrigation Network:	All visible and concealed installations and equipment provided by the DM for the transportation and distribution of irrigation water. This includes any Manholes, pumps, valves, tanks, Sprinklers, Drippers, and other related installations.
Manhole:	Any room or box that forms part of a sewerage network, the Rainwater Drainage Network, or the Public Irrigation Network and that is used for connection, drainage, inspection, or general maintenance purposes.
Water:	This includes rainwater, groundwater, and any other collected surface water.
Soakaway:	An area of bare land surrounded by a compacted earth bund, used to drain groundwater.

Wastewater:	Water that has been used and mixed with Waste generated from human, domestic, or similar activities, including any Water that is unfit for use without treatment.
Treatment Plant:	All structures, devices, and equipment designed to receive and treat Wastewater by removing suspended organic and inorganic solids and improving Water quality to minimise risks to public health and the environment.
Septic Tank:	A watertight tank made of concrete, cement blocks, fiberglass, or other materials resistant to leakage and corrosion; and designed and constructed, in accordance with certain technical specifications and standards, to enable partial anaerobic decomposition of organic matter existing in the Wastewater discharged into this tank.
Connection Chamber:	A watertight chamber made of concrete or cement blocks, designed to be the final inspection chamber within the Private Sewerage Network of a Building.
Cesspool:	A watertight pit made of concrete or cement blocks, designed to receive, and drain Wastewater through side openings that allow liquids to seep into the surrounding soil.
Discharge Point:	A designated location within connection point of the Public Sewerage Network designated for discharging the Wastewater, drawn by Vacuum Tankers from Septic Tanks and Cesspools, and is authorised to be discharged into the Public Sewerage Network.
Vacuum Tanker:	A vehicle that is equipped with a metal tank of specific capacity and approved by the Competent Department for use in pumping out and transporting Wastewater.
Biological Oxygen Demand:	The amount of oxygen consumed by bacteria to biologically decompose the organic matter present in Wastewater.
Chemical Oxygen Demand:	The amount of oxygen required to chemically oxidise the organic matter present in Wastewater.
Grease Trap:	A specially engineered device connected to Private Sewerage Networks in commercial kitchens, restaurants, food factories, hotels, and similar establishments designed to separate food oils and grease from Wastewater before it is discharged into the Public Sewerage Network or Septic Tanks.

Oil Trap:	A specially engineered device designed to separate oils and grease from Wastewater before it is discharged into the Public Sewerage Network or Septic Tanks.
Sand Trap:	A tank designed, in accordance with the specifications prescribed by the Competent Department and used for the sedimentation of sand suspended in Water, typically from construction sites, before it is discharged into the Rainwater Drainage Network.
Valve Box:	A protective enclosure, typically made of reinforced plastic, used to safeguard electrical valves.
Buried Pipes:	All underground pipelines used for transporting Wastewater, rainwater, or irrigation water.
Visible Pipes:	All overground pipelines used for transporting irrigation water or for draining rainwater and ground water for construction sites.
Sprinkler:	A device connected to irrigation Buried Pipes and used for spraying green areas with Water.
Dripper:	Perforated hoses fitted on Visible Pipes and used for supplying drip irrigation Water to ornamental trees and plants.

Chapter Two

Public Sewerage Networks

Article (3)

The Competent Department is responsible for planning, designing, and constructing all Public Sewerage Networks and Treatment Plants in the Emirate. It is also responsible for fully supervising and controlling the operation and maintenance of these networks and plants.

Article (4)

No Person may connect a Building's Private Sewerage Network to the Public Sewerage Network, or make any modifications or change to the pipelines of the Public Sewerage Network or to the sewerage system without first obtaining the relevant approval from the Competent Department and other Concerned Organisational Units of the DM.

For the purpose of obtaining the approval referred to in the preceding paragraph, an application for connecting a Private Sewerage Network to the Public Sewerage Network must be submitted to the Competent Department at least three (3) months prior to the Building's scheduled completion date.

Article (5)

The Competent Department will, based on the plans submitted by the Owner, determine the locations and the number of connection points of the Private Sewerage Network of a Building with the Public Sewerage Network and with the Rainwater Drainage Network.

Where an Owner wishes to change the location or number of such connection points, he must submit a new application for this purpose and pay the relevant prescribed fees.

Article (6)

No Person may establish a Wastewater Treatment Plant without first obtaining the relevant written approval from the Competent Department. Additionally, no Person may use the treated Water, or any sludge produced by a Treatment Plant, without first conducting the necessary chemical and microbiological tests and obtaining the relevant approval from the Competent Department and the Concerned Organisational Units of the DM.

Article (7)

Direct discharge of Wastewater collected by Vacuum Tankers from Cesspools and Septic Tanks of Buildings into the Public Sewerage Network will be subject to the relevant requirements and rules prescribed by the Competent Department.

Article (8)

No industrial Wastewater may be discharged into the Public Sewerage Network unless the Competent Department verifies that the Wastewater meets the requirements, rules, and standards prescribed by the Competent Department for this purpose.

Article (9)

An Owner must connect the drainage pipelines from air conditioning units and balconies to the Private Sewerage Network of his Building.

Chapter Three

Private Sewerage Networks

Article (10)

The design of the Private Sewerage Network of a Building is subject to the requirements and specifications prescribed by the Competent Department and the other Concerned Organisational Units of the DM.

Article (11)

The Private Sewerage Network of a Building, including the pipes used, must meet the requirements and specifications prescribed by the Concerned Organisational Unit of the DM in coordination with the Competent Department.

Article (12)

An application for a Permit to construct a Private Sewerage Network for Wastewater must be submitted by the Owner on the form prescribed by the Concerned Organisational Unit and the Competent Department for this purpose, accompanied by the following documents:

1. the plans and detailed drawings of the proposed Private Sewerage Network and system;
2. the drawings illustrating the design and operation of the proposed Private Sewerage Network system; and
3. a detailed report on the preventive and maintenance measures to be implemented.

Article (13)

Wastewater of a Building will be discharged from the Private Sewerage Network into the Public Sewerage Network using the natural flow rule. Where it is impossible to apply this rule for constructional reasons beyond the Owner's control, the Owner of the Building must obtain the initial approval of the Competent Department to design and install pumps to raise Wastewater level to allow natural flow, provided that such pumps:

1. meet the requirements and specification determined by the Competent Department; and
2. are equipped with non-return valves that prevent reverse flow of Wastewater from the Public Sewerage Network to the Private Sewerage Network.

The Owner must carry out regular maintenance for these pumps as required.

Article (14)

The covers of Connection Chambers of a Building must meet the specifications prescribed by the Competent Department. Where a Connection Chamber is located outside of the Building or on Vehicles passageway, its cover must be capable of withstanding heavy loads.

Article (15)

A Private Sewerage Network of a restaurant, cafeteria, food factory, fast-food outlet, hotel, or a similar establishment must have Grease Traps that meet the requirements and specifications prescribed by the Competent Department.

Upon applying for a new licence or renewal of licence, the Competent Department may conduct a field inspection of the establishment to verify whether or not Grease Traps are

installed. The Competent Department may also conduct regular inspections of the establishment to verify the safe operation and maintenance of the installed traps.

Without prejudice to the provisions of the preceding paragraph, the Competent Department may authorise any of the above-mentioned establishments, except for food factories, to conduct its activities prior to installing Grease Traps, provided that they pay a security deposit to ensure the installation of these traps within forty-five (45) days from the authorisation date, in accordance with the requirements prescribed by the Competent Department for such an authorisation.

The Schedule of Security Deposits attached to this Order and approved by Us will determine the value of the security deposit prescribed for this purpose.

Article (16)

Oil factories and car wash stations must have traps to separate oil from wash water before discharging it into the Public Sewerage Network, Septic Tanks, Cesspools, or any other location designated and approved for this purpose by the Competent Department.

For the purpose of implementing the provisions of the preceding paragraph, the Competent Department may, in addition to imposing the penalties prescribed by this Order, require the suspension of water supply to an establishment in any of the following cases:

1. where the trap separating oil from Water at an establishment is found to be non-functional;
2. where the trap separating oil from Water does not operate efficiently, as required to meet operational and health standards; or
3. where laboratory tests establish that the oil content in the Water exceeds the limits prescribed by the Competent Department for discharge into the Public Sewerage Network.

Article (17)

No Person may discharge Wastewater into the Public Sewerage Network if doing so may increase the biological or chemical load on the Treatment Plant beyond its operational capacity; if the Wastewater contains toxic or hazardous substances; or if the Wastewater does not meet, or conform to, the specifications, requirements, and standards prescribed by the Competent Department.

Article (18)

Where Wastewater discharged into Public Sewerage Network contains any of the substances referred to in the preceding Article, or where the Wastewater does not meet the specifications and requirements prescribed by the Competent Department, the Competent Department may:

1. close the Private Sewerage Network to prevent the discharge of Wastewater into the Public Sewerage Network;
2. require the violator to treat the Wastewater generated to meet the standards specified by the Competent Department for discharging Wastewater into the Public Sewerage Network; or
3. require the violator to remedy any damage resulting from the violation.

Article (19)

The Competent Department may authorise the discharge of Wastewater pumped out by Vacuum Tankers from Septic Tanks and Cesspools into the Public Sewerage Network only through the Discharge Points designated by the Competent Department for this purpose. In this case, the Wastewater must meet the relevant specifications prescribed for discharging Wastewater into the Public Sewerage Network.

Article (20)

The Competent Department may collect samples from the Vacuum Tankers transporting Wastewater when they reach Discharge Points to conduct laboratory tests and verify their compliance with the approved standard specifications for the type of Wastewater authorised for discharge into the Public Sewerage Network.

Article (21)

No sludge resulting from Treatment Plants may be used for fertilisation purposes unless it is thermally treated and cleared of all types of microbes, larvae, and other development stages, pathogens, and parasites. Such usage is subject to obtaining the approval of the Competent Department, which will be issued based on the results of the necessary laboratory tests.

Article (22)

No Person may open, fill up, cover, or conceal any Manholes or inspection chambers of the Public Sewerage Network; or construct any structures, install any barriers, or plant any trees that may compromise the safety, or obstruct the maintenance, of the Public Sewerage Network.

Article (23)

An Owner will be responsible for the operation and maintenance of the Private Sewerage Networks of his Building and for addressing any blockages, overflows, or leakages occurring therein.

Article (24)

Where the Competent Department determines that a Private Sewerage Network or any of its internal extensions is in a condition that poses a risk to public health or does not meet the prescribed requirements and specifications, it may take the necessary measures to rectify the situation and hold the Owner liable for all incurred costs.

Chapter Four

Rainwater Drainage Networks

Article (25)

The Competent Department will have the duties of planning, designing, and implementing all Rainwater Drainage Networks in the Emirate; determining Water drainage points; and overseeing and fully supervising the operation and maintenance of these networks.

Article (26)

No Person may:

- a. discharge Water into the Public Sewerage Network or a Private Sewerage Network. Notwithstanding the provisions of this paragraph, Water may be discharged into the Rainwater Drainage Network subject to obtaining a written approval from the Competent Department and meeting the conditions and requirements prescribed by the Competent Department for this purpose; or
- b. discharge Wastewater into the Rainwater Drainage Network.

Article (27)

No Person may dewater and discharge Water from construction sites, projects, or excavations into the Rainwater Drainage Network without a written permit issued by the Competent Department, which will specify the methods and means of discharge methods, including:

1. the number of dewatering points for each site;
2. the total length, in metres, of the dewatering site when using deep wells for dewatering instead of points;
3. the number and capacity of the dewatering pumps for each site;
4. the diameter of the pipe draining into the Rainwater Drainage Network;
5. the location and number of the authorised drainage points; and
6. the specifications of the sedimentation tank used for discharge.

Where culverts, drainage basins, or direct discharge into the sea are used, a Person employing any of these methods must pay the security deposit prescribed in the Table of

Security Deposits attached hereto, to ensure indemnification for the DM against any relevant damage that may occur to the Rainwater Drainage Network or drainage sites.

Article (28)

A Permit Holder must take the following measures to protect Rainwater Drainage Networks and maintain public safety at the construction site:

1. providing a sand trap as per the requirements and rules prescribed by the Competent Department, and maintaining the cleanliness of such trap at all times;
2. closing the inspection chamber covers and Rainwater Drainage Network Manhole openings during and after use;
3. placing temporary barriers on the roads and driveways as required by the Concerned Organisational Unit of the DM;
4. providing safety requirements and equipment and warning signs on roads and at construction sites;
5. ensuring that dewatering pipes are securely closed to prevent any leakage;
6. placing an oil-resistant or oil-absorbent material under pumps to prevent degradation or damage to roads and pavements in the event of any oil leakage from these pumps;
7. providing continuous supervision of the dewatering site to ensure control over any leakage from or overflow of drainage Manholes;
8. placing a warning mesh fence around the sand traps and drainage points; and
9. taking any other measures required by the Competent Department.

Article (29)

Without prejudice to the mandatory measures stipulated in the preceding Article, a Permit Holder must ensure that the approved drainage basin has no infiltration or leakage that may affect the surrounding area.

In the event that infiltration or a leakage is detected, the Permit Holder must suspend the drainage process and comply with the emergency instructions issued to him by the Competent Department

Article (30)

A Permit Holder must, following completion of the Water drainage, restore the construction site to its original state. This includes demolishing the drainage basin, retiling pavements where culverts are used, and repairing any damage to public property resulting from such drainage.

The Permit Holder will be required to obtain a certificate from the Competent Department confirming compliance with the requirements stipulated in this Article.

Article (31)

A Permit Holder must keep copies of the permits issued to him by the Competent Department at the construction site at all times to enable the DM competent employees, who inspect the site, to access these permits.

Article (32)

An Owner must provide a functional system to drain rainwater from his Building and its parking lot in accordance with the relevant requirements and rules determined by the Competent Department.

Article (33)

Water resulting from air conditioning; from cleaning air conditioning equipment; or from cleaning balconies of a Building may not be discharged into the Rainwater Drainage Network. This Water may be discharged into the Private Sewerage Network of the Building.

Article (34)

An Owner may not change or divert the pipelines of the Rainwater Drainage Network of his Building or its appurtenances without first obtaining the written approval of the Competent Department.

Chapter Five

Public Irrigation Networks

Article (35)

The Competent Department will have the duties of planning, designing, and implementing Public Irrigation Networks in the Emirate, as well as fully supervising the operation and maintenance of these networks.

Article (36)

No Person may use treated sewage Water for drinking or any other human uses. However, treated sewage Water may be used for other purposes, subject to obtaining a relevant prior permit from the Competent Department. The permit will specify the approved type of use and maximum quantity allowed.

Article (37)

In addition to obtaining the permit referred to in the preceding Article, a Permit Holder must comply with the following requirements and rules:

1. installing a meter approved by the Competent Department at the designated location to measure the quantity of irrigation water that may be drawn from the Public Irrigation Network;
2. implementing any emergency or urgent instructions issued to him by the Competent Department to immediately suspend the use of irrigation water where required;
3. notifying the Competent Department of his intention to cease using the Water or to change the location from which the Water is drawn, at least three (3) days prior to the scheduled date of change or cessation; and
4. not exceeding the quantity of Water stated in the permit unless he obtains a new permit.

Article (38)

No structures or barriers may be constructed, no excavations may be carried out, and no trees may be planted, in any areas that may compromise the safety, or cause leak in or damage to, the Public Irrigation Network. In addition, it is prohibited to cover or conceal any part of this network or any of its facilities.

Chapter Six General Provisions Article (39)

In return for providing its services, the Competent Department will collect the fees indicated opposite each of these services in the Table of Fees attached to this Order and approved by Us.

All local Government departments, ministries, public authorities and corporations, and mosques will be exempted from payment of the fees prescribed under this Order.

Article (40)

The inspectors and employees of the Competent Department and those nominated by the Director General of the DM for this purpose, will have the capacity of law enforcement officers to record the acts committed in breach of the provisions of this Order and the resolutions or instructions issued in pursuance hereof. For this purpose, they may access and inspect public areas of Buildings and establishments and issue the necessary violation reports.

Article (41)

Without prejudice to any stricter penalty prescribed by any other legislation, any Person who violates the provisions of this Order and the resolutions or instructions issued in pursuance hereof will be punished by a fine of no more than ten thousand dirhams (AED 10,000.00). Upon repetition of the same violation within one (1) year from the date of the previous violation, the amount of the fine will be doubled. A fine must not exceed forty thousand dirhams (AED 40,000.00).

In addition to the prescribed penalty, the Competent Department may take one or more of the following measures against a violator:

1. suspend water and electricity services for the Building in which the violation occurs until the violation is remedied;
2. suspend or revoke the permits issued pursuant to the provisions of this Order for the period prescribed by the Competent Department; or
3. close of establishment for not less than one (1) week and not more than one (1) month.

The Director General of the DM will issue a resolution determining the acts constituting violations hereunder and the penalties prescribed for each violation.

Article (42)

In addition to the penalties and measures stipulated in the preceding Article, a Person who causes any damage to the Public Sewerage Network, Rainwater Drainage Network, or Public Irrigation Network or any of their facilities, will be liable for the damages and for the repair costs of these networks based on a report prepared by the DM for this purpose.

Article (43)

The security deposit amount collected pursuant to paragraph (2) of Article (15) of this Order will be withheld in any of the following cases:

- a. the lapse of the period specified in the permit issued for a food establishment without fixing the Grease Trap; or
- b. failure by a food establishment to comply with the terms of the permit issued to it by the Competent Department.

The security deposit amount collected pursuant to paragraph (b) of Article (27) of this Order will be withheld if the drainage culvert and basin, or the drainage installations linked directly to sea, are not removed and the site specified in the Permit is not restored to its original condition within three (3) months after completing the drainage works.

Article (44)

Where a violator fails to remedy a violation within the time frame prescribed by the Competent Department, the Competent Department may remedy the violation by itself or by engaging any competent entity from within or outside of the DM.

Without prejudice to the penalties prescribed for violations, a violator will be liable for payment of repair costs in addition to twenty-five per cent (25%) of these costs as administrative fees.

Article (45)

For the purpose of ensuring compliance by all Persons with the provisions of this Order and the resolutions or instructions issued in pursuance hereof, the DM may seek assistance from local Government entities and public authorities and corporations, including police personnel. Upon request, these entities must provide the DM with support and assistance as soon as practicable.

Article (46)

The fees and fines, the security deposits, and any other costs or amounts collected pursuant to this Order will be paid to the DM.

Article (47)

Local Order No. (99) of 1996 Imposing a Fee for Using the Sewerage Network of the Emirate of Dubai is hereby repealed.

Any provision in any other local order is also hereby repealed to the extent that it contradicts the provisions of this Order.

Article (48)

The Director General of the DM will issue any resolutions and instructions required for the implementation of this Order.

Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum

Deputy Ruler of Dubai

Chairman of the Dubai Municipality

Issued in Dubai on 16 November 2002

Corresponding to 11 Ramadan 1423 A.H.

**Table of Service Fees for
Sewerage, Irrigation, and Water Drainage**

SN	Description	Fees
1	Application for connecting the Private Sewerage Network or a commercial or investment Building with the Public Sewerage Network:	
	Main Connection Application:	Fifty fils (AED 0.50) per square feet of the total area of the Building or of any future structures, excluding the areas allocated for car parks. This fee may not be less than ten thousand dirhams (AED 10,000.00) and not more than two hundred thousand dirhams (AED 200,000.00)
	Additional Connection Application	Five thousand dirhams (AED 5,000.00) or the costs of the additional connection, whichever is higher.
2	Application for main or additional connection of the Private Sewerage Network of a residential Building with the Public Sewerage Network:	Fifty fils (AED 0.50) per square foot of the total area of the Building. This fee may not be less than one thousand dirhams (AED 1,000.00) and not more than two hundred thousand dirhams (AED 200,000.00). For additional connection, a fee of one thousand dirhams (AED 1,000.00) or the costs of the additional connection, whichever is higher, will apply.
3	Application for main or additional connection of the Private Sewerage Network of a Building designated for car parks with the Public Sewerage Network:	Ten thousand dirhams (AED 10,000.00) for main connection, or five thousand dirhams (AED 5,000.00) or the costs of the additional connection, whichever is higher.
4	Application for a temporary connection of the sewers of an under-construction Building with the Public Sewerage Network.	Five thousand dirhams (AED 5,000.00) or the costs of the connection, whichever is higher.
5	Application for determining new locations and number of connection points of a Private Sewerage Network with the Public Sewerage Network	(AED 100.00) per application
6	Discharging the load of a Vacuum Tanker into the Public Sewerage	Ten dirhams (AED 10.00) per load

	Network	
7	Dewatering at a construction site	Twenty-five fils (AED 0.25) per drainage point or per linear metre per day, with a minimum fee of one hundred dirhams (AED 100.00) for each dewatering operation.
8	Dewatering of groundwater by the contractors of Government projects	One thousand dirhams (AED 1,000.00) per month.
9	Using treated sewage water	Half a fils (AED 0.005) per gallon
10	Application for changing the location of a Connection Chamber, altering a rainwater drainage point, or diverting the pipelines of a Private Sewerage Network.	The fee will be determined based on the costs incurred by the Competent Department under the relevant contract concluded with the contractor, in addition to twenty-five percent (25%) of this fee as administrative fees.

Table of Security Deposits

SN	Description	Security Deposits
1	Security deposit for installing Grease Traps within the time frames prescribed by the Competent Department	AED 5,000.00
2	Security deposit for using a drainage basin at a construction site or for direct discharge into the sea	AED 10,000.00
3	Security deposit for employing culverts during construction	AED 5,000.00

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