



Water Resources Division

A sanitary sewer line is going past my home. Can the local unit of government require me to hook up to the sanitary sewer?

Yes, a city, village, or township may require a homeowner to connect to an available public sanitary sewer if the sewer passes not more than 200 feet from the home. Public sanitary sewer systems are essential to the health, safety, and welfare of the people of the state. Septic tank disposal systems are subject to failure due to soil conditions or other reasons. Failure and even potential failure of septic tank systems present a threat to public health and to the quality of waters of the state. Therefore, local units of government have the authority to require a homeowner to connect to the sanitary sewer at the earliest, reasonable date. The state law that enables the local unit of government is [Section 333.12753](#) of the Public Health Code, 1978 PA 368, as amended. Local units of government most commonly embody this requirement within their local ordinances. Homeowners who want to resolve concerns related to the connection should work with their local unit of government. General questions can also be directed to the State of Michigan's Environmental Assistance Center at 800-662-9278.

The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) will not discriminate against any individual or group on the basis of race, sex, religion, age, national origin, color, marital status, disability, political beliefs, height, weight, genetic information or sexual orientation. Questions or concerns should be directed to the Quality of Life - Office of Human Resources, P.O. Box 30473, Lansing, MI 48909-7973.