

## MEMORANDUM

**Date:** October 19, 2020  
**To:** Development and Building Community  
**From:** Sam Zahorka, Building Official  
**Re:** Residential Drainage disposal

The Meridian Public Works and the Building Department have documented cases that Area Drains, Gutters, Foundation Drainage, etc., are being piped to and disposed of through the excavated trench of the sanitary sewer service. This is highly problematic since this practice can cause settlement in the excavated trench, potentially extending under the public right-of way causing damage to the sewer service and roadway.

**Per the 2017 Idaho State Plumbing Code, Section 1101.0**

***1101.2** Where Required. Roofs, paved areas, yards, courts, courtyards, vent shafts, light wells, or similar areas having rainwater, shall be drained into a separate storm sewer system, or into a combined sewer system where a separate storm sewer system is not available, or to some other place of disposal satisfactory to the Authority Having Jurisdiction. In the case of one- and two-family dwellings, storm water shall be permitted to be discharged on flat areas, such as streets or lawns, so long as the storm water shall flow away from the building and away from adjoining property, and shall not create a nuisance.*

***1101.6** Subsoil Drains. Subsoil drains shall be provided around the perimeter of buildings having basements, cellars, crawl spaces, or floors below grade. Such subsoil drains shall be permitted to be positioned inside or outside of the footing, shall be of perforated or open-jointed approved drain tile or pipe, not less than 3-inches (80 mm) in diameter, and shall be laid in gravel, slag, crushed rock, approved **V4** of an inch (19.1 mm) crushed, recycled glass aggregate, or other*

*approved porous material with not less than 4-inches (102 mm) sur-rounding the pipe. Filter media shall be provided for exterior subsoil piping.*

**Area Drains, Gutters, Foundation Drainage, etc... being piped to and disposed into the sewer service excavation trenches shall not be allowed. The stormwater/drainage must go to a separate seepage bed or to designated storm drains.**

**The City of Meridian's sewer system is not a combination storm sewer, sanitary sewer system, and therefore any discharge of storm drainage into the sanitary sewer system is unlawful per Meridian City Code § 9-4-9A.**

**Thank you for assistance in this matter.**

**Sincerely,**

*Sam Zahorka*

**Sam Zahorka, CBO  
Building Official  
City of Meridian | Community Development Dept.**