

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Howard County Department of Public Works will be conducting Smoke Testing in Local Sewers

The sanitary sewer lines in your neighborhood are being inspected for defects by means of smoke testing as part of a larger program the County is conducting to improve sanitary sewer services.

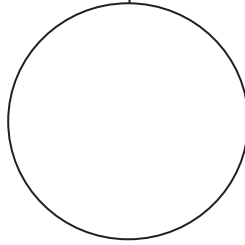
The tests will be conducted by George, Miles and Buhr, LLC and Flow Assessment Services, LLC, on behalf of the Howard County Department of Public Works. It is not necessary for you to be home during the inspection. However, the inspectors may need to walk on your property to look for signs of smoke coming from area drains, downspouts, or the ground.

The test will be performed 2 to 4 days after receipt of this notice. Because smoke will not travel through water-soaked ground, smoke testing will not be done during or immediately after a rain storm. Weather conditions, holidays and weekends may shift testing periods beyond the 2 to 4 day time frame.

Be assured that the smoke is not harmful to people, pets or furnishings. Smoke should not enter buildings except possibly through defective plumbing. We respectfully request your assistance by notifying handicapped or shut-in persons in your neighborhood of these tests.

If you have any questions or should you observe smoke escaping from any place other than the roof vent pipes, please notify one of the field personnel conducting the test, Mr. Brian Mieldazis of Flow Assessment Services, LLC at 215-207-4542. If you have questions regarding the smoke testing program, please call Mr. Anthony Rocco at the Department of Public Works Bureau of Utilities at 410-313-4900.

Back side of Door Hanger



Smoke Testing Information

Smoke testing consists of introducing smoke into the sewer system and observing the locations where the smoke escapes. Smoke escapes from defective parts of the sewer where rainwater or groundwater can get in. To cut costs and reduce sewer flow, those points need to be identified for repairs. If the plumbing in your home is in proper condition, the smoke will not escape into your home. In order to be sure your plumbing (i.e. basins, shower stalls, etc.), and any inside floor drains are properly sealed, please pour a bucket of water in each to fill the trap. This will assure that no smoke escapes from the drains. During the test, it is normal for smoke to escape from the vent pipe protruding through the roof of your home and this should cause no alarm.

