



VILLAGE OF PORT CHESTER

Village Manager's Office – 1st Floor

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SMOKE TESTING **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)**

What exactly is a Smoke Test?

A field crew from, Delaware Engineering, the contractor retained on behalf of the Village of Port Chester will use liquid smoke to test sewer lines. Smoke blowers are placed on manholes and white smoke is blown through the sewer system. Any location where white smoke is identified during the test, except plumbing vent stacks, is a potential Infiltration/Inflow source for storm water or ground water to enter the collection system. Smoke testing personnel will be identified by wearing hard hats and traffic vests.



Why is smoke testing being done now?

The Village has done smoke testing in the past. The Village is required by state and federal regulatory authorities to be continuously assessing the performance and operation of the sanitary sewer collection system. A smoke test is considered an effective method for identifying sources of Inflow and Infiltration (I/I) and will be used by the Village to prevent excessive flow in the system.



What is the benefit to the Village for performing a Smoke Test?

Smoke testing is one technique utilized to identify segments of sewers that may exhibit inflow during heavy rainfall. Smoke testing is best used to detect inflow sources such as roof downspouts, driveways, yard and area drains, foundation drains, illegal connections, and storm water drainage system cross-connections. It can also detect structural damages and leaking joints in sewer pipes.



How will residents know when Smoke Testing will be performed in their neighborhoods?

Testing will be performed during the Summer and Fall 2022 and affected property owners are being notified with this informational letter. Information about the smoke testing, maps of the areas to be tested and scheduled dates of testing will be posted on the Village's website:

www.portchesterny.gov

Separately, notices will be posted on the front door of properties approximately three days before the smoke testing with the date and time of the testing, weather permitting.

Is the smoke that is used hazardous?

No. The smoke that comes out of the vent stacks on houses or holes in the ground is non-toxic, and harmless. It does not create a fire hazard. The Police and Fire Departments will be made aware of the test areas and schedule.



Do I have to do anything to prepare their properties for Smoke Testing?

Plumbing drain traps are normally filled with water to prevent the smoke from entering the building. If you are concerned about low-use drains, run the faucet for 30-60 seconds or pour about 3 cups of water into floor and sink drains to fill the traps.



Do I need to be home when the Smoke Testing is performed?

You do not need to be home and at no time will field crews need to physically enter your property. Field inspectors will be documenting the testing, taking photos and measuring distances so that the defects may be identified.



What happens after the smoke testing has been completed?

If white smoke does enter, this is evidence of a violation and the Village will follow up with a Notice of Violation. This notification sets forth the nature of the violation and that corrective action is required. If white smoke from the testing can enter through faulty plumbing the potential exists for dangerous sewer gases to also enter the home. A licensed plumber should be consulted. Typically, the notice will provide a period of thirty (30) days to correct the violation. However, the Village will work with property owners on a timeline for repairs if more time is needed to complete any remedial work.

The Building Department and Department of Code Enforcement stand ready to assist you in the remedial process.

Building Department- (914) 939-5203

Code Enforcement- (914) 305-2552

What if the problem is not corrected?

The Village depends on full cooperation to correct the problem. However, in the event that this does not occur, the Village will be required to take all necessary steps, including legal action, to address the issue.