

Fog and Dye Testing Sewers in Your Neighbourhood

The Town of Newmarket is working with Civica Infrastructure on an Inflow and Infiltration (I/I) Reduction study. The study's objectives are to identify sources of rainwater entering the sanitary sewers and develop a plan to reduce these flows.

The sanitary sewer system is an underground pipe network that collects wastewater produced by houses, businesses, and industries. The purpose of the pipe network is to direct the wastewater to a treatment plant where the water is treated before being discharged into Lake Ontario. Wastewater is the water that has been used by the community and disposed of including any water that enters the sanitary sewers from toilets, sinks, showers, and other appliances.

I/I occurs when water enters the sanitary sewers through cracks in the pipe network or through other undesired connections such as catch basins or roof downspouts. The rainwater and groundwater fill the pipes and reduces the capacity of the sanitary pipe network and the treatment plant. This also increases the risk of overloading the pipe network and potential basement flooding.

In order to identify sources of I/I, Civica Infrastructure, with support from the Town, will be conducting a sewer fog and dye testing program in your neighborhood throughout the period of **April – December 2021**, between the hours of 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Fog and dye testing is a safe and easy way to locate any sources of I/I in the system.

What is fog testing?

The fog test consists of blowing a harmless coloured vapour into the sewer manholes and pipes and observing where the fog exits from the system. The fog is expected to exit primarily out of manholes on the street and the sewer plumbing stack at the top of your house. It is also possible for fog to exit stormwater catch basins and roof downspouts at the side of a house. The fog used in the test has no odour, isn't harmful to your health, and will disappear after a few minutes. During the fog testing, Civica Infrastructure staff will complete a quick walk around your property to mark all the locations where fog is exiting the sewer system. Staff will not need to enter inside your house to conduct the fog test at any time.

What you need to do and what notices will you receive?

Fog testing will occur in your neighbourhood in the next one to four weeks (1-4 weeks). Prior to testing in your immediate area, you will receive an orange door hanger notice (1-5 business days before testing). When you have received the doorhanger, pour one (1) pail of water (5-6 litres) into any **infrequently** used sinks and your basement floor drain. The basement floor drain is typically a small perforated metal plate located in your basement floor. It is usually located near a low spot in the basement floor close to the furnace or laundry room.

On the day of the fog testing, Civica Infrastructure staff will knock on the resident's door, stand at least 6 feet back to maintain physical distancing and inform the resident that fog testing will be occurring.

Note: You do not need to be home for the fog testing, but you can be home while the test is occurring. ENHANCED MEASURES ARE IN PLACE FOR THE PROTECTION OF OUR STAFF AND THE PUBLIC UNDER COVID-19, IN ACCORDANCE WITH LOCAL AND PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS AS WELL AS THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

Dye Testing

If a fog test is positive or inconclusive, Civica Infrastructure field staff will be required to perform a dye test and will come onto your property to conduct the test from outside the building. A dye test takes a few minutes and includes pouring water mixed with tracer dye into an inlet to visually confirm its connectivity in the sewer. A possible inlet could be the roof downspout or a rear lot catch basin. Staff will not need to enter inside your house to conduct the dye test at any time.

What is the purpose of fog testing the sanitary sewer system?

The purpose of the testing is to make sure the sanitary sewer is working at its best. Fog testing is a simple, cost effective, and quick method of testing the sanitary sewer system, it can locate where rainwater or groundwater is entering the system.

What measures are in place to ensure health and safety of staff and members of the public during COVID-19 pandemic?

Enhanced Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) including the use of nitrile gloves, and where appropriate protective face masks (medical grade N95) in addition to social/physical distancing amongst field service crew members and members of the public.

How is Civica ensuring work is being completed while adhering to emergency orders set out by the Province of Ontario?

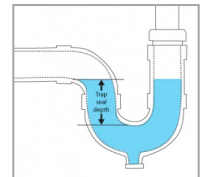
Civica has been deemed an essential business as classified under Category 34 – Community Services (sub-category V) in accordance with List of Essential Workplaces, O.Reg. 119/20 – Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act. The health, safety and wellbeing of our employees and the public is paramount in the work we do. We demonstrate due diligence as we continue to update and evolve our protocols and procedures to suit the rapidly changing landscape as a result of this pandemic. To this effect, we are in communication with York Region Public Health daily to receive updates as they unfold. Frequent communications to staff are occurring to serve as reminders of safe hygiene and social/physical distancing practices in an effort to minimize the risk of community transmission of the virus.

What should I do to prepare for fog testing?

Please fill drains and rarely used sinks with one (1) pail (5-6 litres) of water on the day you receive the orange door hanger.

Will fog enter my home?

The fog is not intended to enter your home, only the internal plumbing system. Each drain should have a gooseneck installed (see picture on the left). This will prevent fog from entering your home. If fog enters your home and there is water in the drain, Civica recommends a plumber should be contacted. If you are at home and the fog enters during testing, note the location of the fog and contact Shreya Gaur (Project Analyst) at (905) 417-9792 ext. 2336. If you cannot identify the source of the fog, please call 911. Staff from Civica Infrastructure will be on-site during the entire process when the testing is being conducted.



Is the fog harmful? I have pets. Should I be concerned?

No. The fog is not harmful to your health, it dissipates quickly, and it will not harm clothing, draperies or furniture. The fog is not harmful to pets. If you will not be home you could leave windows partially open for ventilation, should any fog enter your home.

If fog gets into the house, how long does it take the fog to fade?

The fog will dissipate in a few minutes. If you are home and the fog is bothering you, leave the room, turn on an exhaust fan and/or open a window to speed up the process.

Where can I find more information?

If you have additional questions or concerns, please visit the project website at www.newmarket.ca/IReductionPilotProject or please contact:

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