

Smoke Testing FAQ

Smoke Testing Frequently Asked Questions

Franklin County Department of Sanitary Engineering is conducting an area-wide Sewer System Evaluation Study (SSES) to assess the sanitary sewer system serving Franklin County customers. The County has contracted with local engineering firm Brown and Caldwell to perform this evaluation.

Brown and Caldwell and its subcontractors will be performing smoke testing in select service areas. All public safety authorities have been properly notified of this testing.

How does smoke testing work?

Smoke testing consists of injecting a harmless, simulated smoke into the sewer system to find leaks and faulty connections which may need repair. The smoke is non-toxic and odorless. It will only enter your home if there are faulty sewer connections or dry traps in plumbing fixtures. The smoke does not stain and is not a fire hazard.

How do I get ready for smoke testing?

Contact Elizabeth Ehret at Brown and Caldwell (614.410.6144) if anyone in your home has respiratory problems, if anyone at home is elderly and alone whom may be alarmed if smoke enters their home, if anyone has mobility problems, or if pets are at home alone and confined to bathroom or laundry room areas.

Fill floor drains and toilets that have not been used with at least 3 cups of water. This only needs to be done once, as the water will last a month. This will help to keep smoke from entering your home.

Tie a damp rag around the drain opening of the washing machine discharge to prevent smoke from entering around the discharge drain pipe.

What do I do if smoke enters my home?

Do NOT become alarmed. Open doors and windows to ventilate your home. The smoke should clear quickly once the home is vented. Notify the crew members performing the test that smoke entered your home. You may also contact Elizabeth Ehret at 614.410.6144 to report smoke in your home.

Do I need to be home for smoke testing?

No. However, if you have pets that are confined to laundry or bathroom areas of your home, please contact Elizabeth Ehret at the above number prior to scheduled testing.

What happens to the information inspection crews find during testing?

The information is documented by Brown and Caldwell and Franklin County Sanitary Engineering. It will be used to identify needed sewer repairs that will reduce the inflow and infiltration of clear water into the sanitary sewer system.