

RESIDENT NOTICE

Township of West Lincoln Fog and Dye Testing

The Township of West Lincoln is working together with Civica Infrastructure on an Inflow and Infiltration (I/I) Study. The objective is to identify the sources of rainwater and groundwater entering the sanitary sewers and develop a plan to reduce these flows.

Inflow and Infiltration (I/I)

I/I occurs when water enters the sanitary sewer system through cracks or holes in the sewer pipes or through undesired connections such as roof downspouts, surface drains, or catch basins. 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.

Sanitary Sewer

The sanitary sewer system is an underground pipe network that collects wastewater from inside your home and directs it to the wastewater treatment plant. Wastewater comes from sources such as toilets, sinks, showers, dishwashers, washing machines, and other appliances.

Fog and Dye Testing

Fog Testing

The fog test consists of blowing a harmless vapor into the sewer to observe where it exits from the system. During the test of a connected downspout, fog could be seen exiting the roof gutter. During the fog testing, Civica staff will complete a quick assessment to mark all the potential inlets from which the fog might exit the sewer system.

Dye Testing

If a fog test is positive or inconclusive, Civica will be required to perform a dye test, which takes a few minutes and includes pouring bright fluorescent non-toxic dyed water into an inlet to visually confirm its connectivity in the sewer.

When will the fog and dye test be carried out?

Civica will be conducting fog and dye testing in your neighborhood in 1-4 weeks (weather permitting), between the hours of 9am to 5pm. Civica will send out another notification by a door hanger 1-5 business days before testing.

Civica staff will not need to enter inside your house to conduct the fog and dye test at any time.



What should you do to prepare?

Prior to the fog test:

- Please open all water taps for 1-2 minutes or pour 3-4 liters of water (a pail of water) into any infrequently used sinks, appliances, and basement floor drains to fill your plumbing trap.
- This can be completed upon receipt of this notice or when you receive the door hanger.

During fog and dye test:

- On the day of fog testing, Civica staff will knock on your door, stand at least 6 feet back to maintain physical distancing, and inform you that fog testing will be occurring.
- Fog should not enter your home unless there is defective plumbing or drain traps are dry.
- If fog enters the home, please open windows, turn on exhaust fans, and note the location of the fog. It will dissipate in a few minutes.
- Please be assured the fog is non-toxic, odorless, non-staining, and creates no fire hazard.
- If one of the possible connections being dye-tested is connected to the storm sewer, you may see bright fluorescent colored dye flowing into a nearby creek.
- Please be assured this dye is non-toxic, biodegradable, and poses no harmful effects to humans, wildlife, or the environment.

IMPORTANT! If there is any individual in your home who has respiratory issues or is not mobile, please notify us prior to testing.

NOTE: Enhanced measures are in place for the protection of our staff and the public under COVID-19, in accordance with the local and provincial governments as well as the Health Department.

Frequently Asked Questions

Township of West Lincoln Fog and Dye Testing

What is the purpose of fog testing?

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

What are health and safety measures in place 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 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. Frequent communications to staff are occurring to ensure safe hygiene and social distancing practices in an effort to minimize the risk of community transmission of the virus.

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

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

Should I be concerned if I have respiratory issues or limited mobility?

If there is any individual in your home who has respiratory problems or is not mobile, and you have concerns, please notify Civica prior to the testing date.

What should I prepare prior to fog test?



Please fill drains and rarely used sinks with one (1) pail (3-4 litres) of water on the day you receive notice or door hanger. This water in U plumbing trap will prevent the fog from entering your home.

Do I need to be home for fog and dye test?

You **DO NOT** need to be home during the fog and dye testing.

Will fog enter my home?

The fog is not intended to enter your home, only the internal plumbing system. If you are at home and the fog enters during testing, note the location of the fog and contact Civica or speak with one of the crew members conducting the test about the location of the fog. If you think there is fog present from a source other than the testing, it is advised to call 911.



What else do I need to know?

Civica will send out another notification by a door hanger 1-5 business days before testing. On the day of testing, Civica staff will be onsite during the entire period when the testing is being conducted. 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 COVID-19 pandemic.

Where can I find more information?

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the lot inspections or fog and dye test, please feel free to contact:

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