



## **Notice: Smoke testing of sewers**

The Town of Georgina has retained Civica Infrastructure Inc. (CIVICA) to complete a sewer inflow and infiltration study. The study's objectives are to identify sources of stormwater or groundwater entering the sanitary sewers and develop a plan to reduce these inflows.

Inflow and infiltration 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. Rainwater and groundwater can fill the pipes and reduce 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.

To identify sources of inflow and infiltration, the Town has contracted CIVICA to conduct sewer smoke testing in your neighborhood throughout the period of **TBD**, between the hours of 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Smoke testing is a safe and easy way to locate sources of inflow and infiltration into the system.

### **What is smoke testing?**

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

### **What do you need to do?**

When you receive this notice, pour one pail (five to six litres) of water into any infrequently used sinks and your basement floor drain to fill your plumbing traps (your plumbing traps will remain full during the testing period). In case you do not know where your floor drain is, see the Frequently Asked Questions in this handout.

Call CIVICA 905-417-9792, ext. 2303 if you have any concerns about the planned smoke testing.

On the day of the smoke testing in your area, CIVICA staff will knock on your door to inform you that the smoke testing is about to occur. You do not need to be home for the smoke testing, but you can be home while the test is occurring.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### What are sanitary sewers?

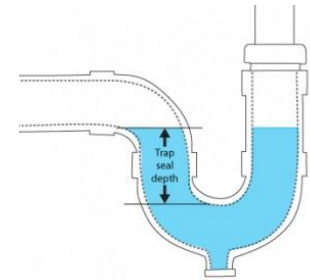
Sanitary sewers are pipes that are found underground that collect the wastewater produced by homes, businesses and industries and direct it to a treatment plant.

### What is the purpose of smoke testing the sanitary sewer system?

The purpose of the testing is to make sure the sanitary sewer is working at its best. Smoke testing is a simple, cost effective and quick method of testing the sanitary sewer system. It can locate where stormwater is entering the system.

### What should I do to prepare for smoke testing?

Fill drains and rarely used sinks with one pail (five to six litres) of water on the day you receive this notice.



### Will smoke enter my home?

The smoke is not intended to enter your home, only the internal plumbing system. Each drain should have a gooseneck installed (see picture on the right). This will prevent smoke from entering your home. If you are home and the smoke enters during testing, note the location of the smoke and contact CIVICA or speak with one of the crew members conducting the test about the location of the smoke. If you think there is smoke present from a source other than the testing, it is advised to call 911.

### Is the smoke harmful? I have pets. Should I be concerned?

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

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

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

### Is property access required?

Access to the outside of the home is required, including backyards (when easily accessible). No internal access to homes will be needed for this testing.

### Contacts

If you have additional questions or concerns, contact:

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