

# NOTICE

---

## SMOKE TESTING SEWER LINES

---

**West Manchester Township is conducting a smoke test of its sanitary sewer system.**

Work crews will be in town starting in January 2022. A **“SMOKE TEST”** survey will assist our inspection crews in locating breaks and defects in our sewer system. The smoke you see coming from the vent stacks on houses or holes in the ground is **NON-TOXIC, NON- STAINING, HAS NO ODOR, WHITE TO GRAY IN COLOR AND CREATES NO FIRE HAZARD.**

*The smoke should not enter your home unless you have defective plumbing or dried up drain traps.*

It is advisable for the homeowner to pour a gallon of water into each drain trap of floors, sinks, showers, and tubs prior to our testing. If smoke enters your home there is a good reason to assume that sewer gases may also be entering your home or business. If you are not home on the day scheduled for testing near you and discover smoke when you return, please contact Mr. Rehab at (717) 697-1242.

**IMPORTANT!** If there is any individual in your home or business who has respiratory problems and is immobile, please notify us at (717) 697-1242 prior to testing.

# West Manchester Township

## Facts and Questions for Smoke Testing

### Work crews will be in town to conduct smoke testing in January 2022.

#### Project Background

A mathematical analysis of the sanitary flows in 20 sewer sub-basins of West Manchester Township (Township) was conducted. This encompassed an area of roughly 3,050 properties. The analysis was performed in accordance with Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) guidelines.

The goal of the analysis was to identify locations where stormwater is leaking into the sewer system. From the analysis three sub-basins were selected for smoke testing based on strong evidence of infiltration. The three areas where smoke tests will be conducted are shown on the attached map.

**Following are some facts and common questions that can help in gaining general insight of the smoke testing process.**

#### 1. Why does the Township perform smoke tests?

The Township performs smoke tests to determine if there are defects in, or any illegal connections to, the sanitary sewer system. A defect could allow storm water into the sanitary sewer system, raising the cost of wastewater treatment.

#### 2. What is a smoke test?

During smoke testing, field crews use a high-volume blower to blow air and smoke into the sanitary sewer system through a manhole and monitor where smoke escapes the system. If the sewer is in good condition, the forced smoke will emerge from manhole lids along the line and house vents on the roof.

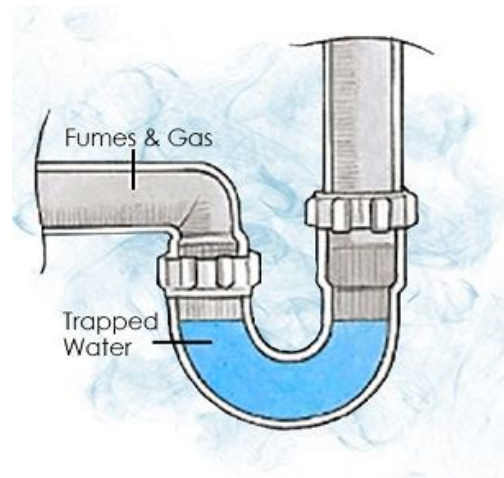
If the line has defects, the smoke will find the break and try to escape through the break. It is not unusual to see smoke come up from peculiar places, such as cracks in the street, or in residential yards during smoke testing. While the smoke is being injected into the sewers, smoke testing crew members will observe the smoke test area and notate the places smoke escapes.

#### 3. When and how will I be notified of the time of the smoke test for my home or business?

A formal notice, via door hanger will be handed out the week of smoke testing followed by a short verbal notification 20 minutes to 5 minutes before the testing begins.

#### 4. Should I do anything to prepare?

During smoke testing, the smoke testing crew forces smoke into the sanitary sewer. The possibility exists for smoke to enter a residence due to infrequently used drains or a defect in the sewer pipes. A drain trap is the S-shaped curvature or elbow in the pipe typically found under sinks. It exists to capture and hold water in the trap's curve. This water in the trap creates a type of seal and blocks gases from rising through the drain and into the home. This trap will also keep the smoke from entering your home. A dry drain trap could be found in drains which are not used regularly, and the water has evaporated. Water should be run into these traps monthly to maintain the drain seal in proper operating condition. For more information, please contact David Love of Mr. Rehab at 717-697-1242.

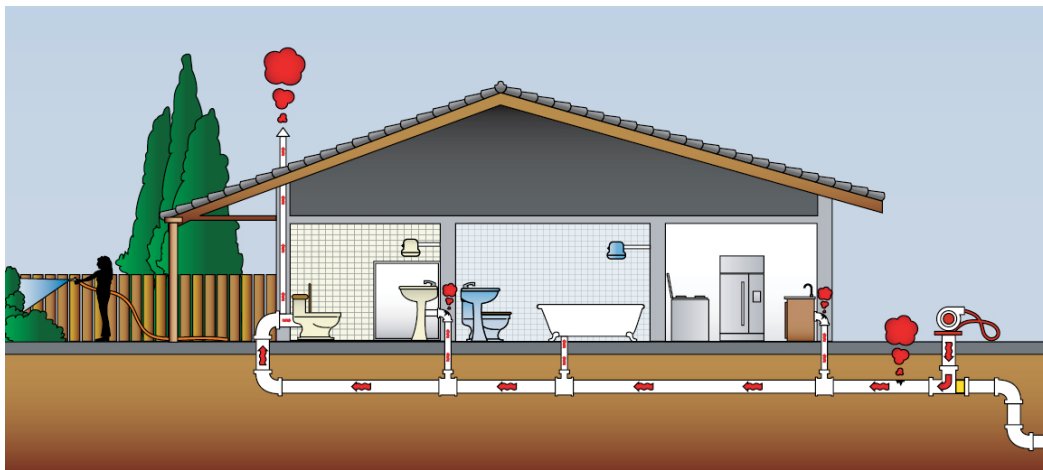


**5. Is the smoke hazardous?**

The smoke utilized during smoke testing is generated with Cherne Smoke Fluid or other similar products. The smoke is not harmful to you, your pets, or house plants. It will not harm or stain clothes, drapes, or furniture. It is not flammable and does not create a fire hazard. While the smoke is not considered harmful, it is recommended to avoid prolonged periods of exposure to it. If smoke appears from a drain inside your residence, open windows and ventilate well to dissipate the smoke.

**6. Will I have smoke coming into my house?**

Probably not, but it is possible that smoke could enter a residence through a drain trap which has dried out or some other plumbing defect such as an un-trapped washing machine drain, cracked pipe, garbage disposal or dishwasher not installed correctly. Note that if smoke can enter your home, then dangerous sewer gases can also. If smoke gets inside of your home locate one of the smoke testing crew members and they will assist you in locating where the smoke entered your home or call them using the number on the door hanger they provided.



**7. I work during the day and have animals inside. What do I do during a smoke test?**

Very rarely does smoke enter a home, but if you do have to leave your animals inside make sure you leave windows open. On the rare occasion when smoke does enter the home, it is usually a defect in the bathroom, so do not lock animals in the bathroom. Shut bathroom doors and leave the bathroom window open.

**8. I or a family member has a respiratory problem. What should I do during a smoke test?**

Very rarely does smoke enter a home, but it would be best if you could sit outside for the duration of the smoke test which is approximately 5 minutes. If you cannot sit outside, open the windows of your home, and shut your bathroom doors. Also, let the smoke test crew member who knocks on your door know you have a respiratory condition.

**9. Should I be concerned if smoke enters my home or business?**




Yes, this means that sewer gases or odors can also enter your home or business. Smoke escaping from drainage grates and gutters on a resident's property, or inside their home through drains in the kitchen, bathroom, or laundry, may indicate the resident needs to make repairs to their plumbing.

**10. Can the smoke activate the smoke alarm?**

Yes, smoke alarms may be activated during smoke testing if some smoke enters your home. If it does, open windows and doors for ventilation. If you are not sure or have any doubts about the smoke call 911.





DOCUMENT PREPARED BY:  4250 Crums Mill Rd #301 Harrisburg, PA 17112 t: 855.432.9663		DOCUMENT PREPARED FOR:  West Manchester Township		LEGEND:   Smoke Test Locations   <
---	--	--	---	--