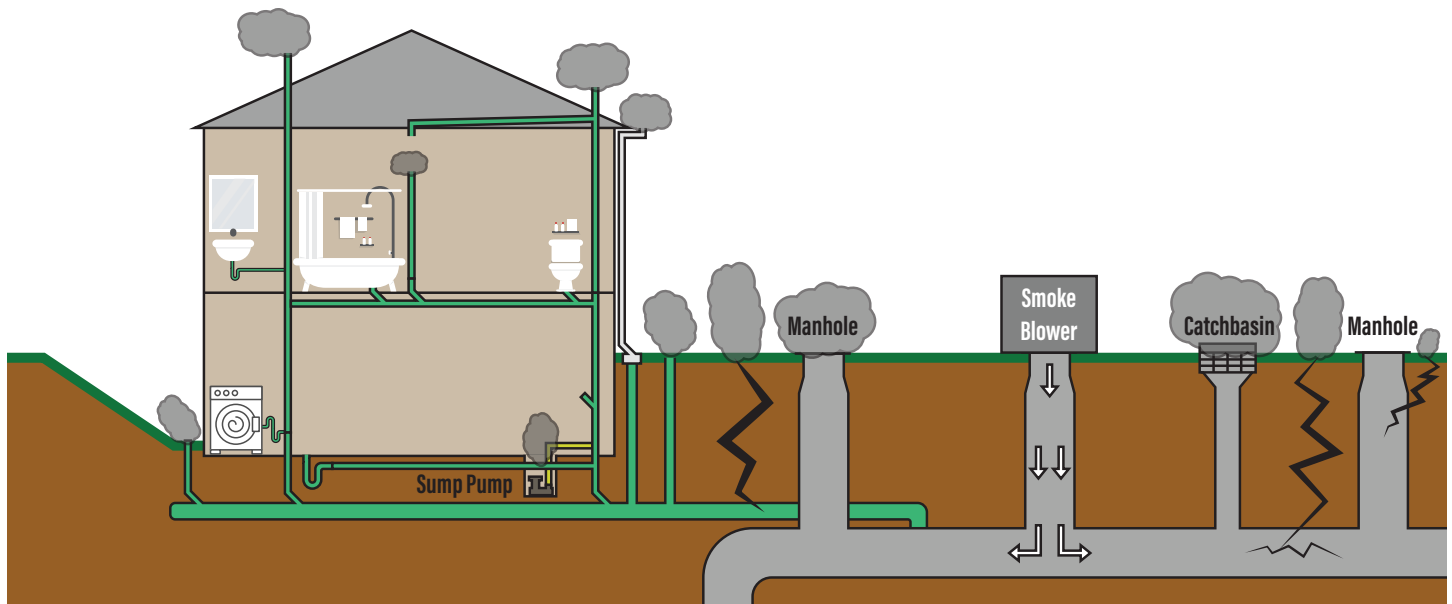


SMOKE TESTING

Why do we do Smoke Tests?

Smoke testing is used to find possible leaks in the wastewater system. During this test, non-toxic, light gray, artificially created smoke (like a fog machine at a concert) is blown into access points (manholes) in the pipe. This smoke will escape through defects in the pipe, such as holes or cracks, or through illicit connections such as roof leaders or sump pumps and will be visible above ground (see diagram).

Plumes coming from plumbing vents and manhole rims are normal. Other plumes can indicate defects and will be noted and photographed.



Safety of Smoke

- It will not harm humans, pets, plants or stain clothing, drapes, or furniture.
- If the smoke enters your home, it may be irritating, especially to individuals with existing respiratory issues.
- Smoke can activate smoke alarms.
- Open windows for ventilation.

What does it mean if smoke enters my home?

- Smoke should not enter your home. If it does, it may be an indication of a defect in your plumbing. This also means sewer gases may enter your home, which can be a health hazard.
- The correction of these defects in your plumbing is the responsibility of the homeowner. A licensed plumber could be consulted to make repairs.
- Other common plumbing defects to check include dried up toilet seals, un-trapped washing machine discharge hoses, or loose/missing plumbing caps.

For questions contact Halifax Water at 902.420.9287 or inflow@halifaxwater.ca

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What should residents do prior to smoke testing?

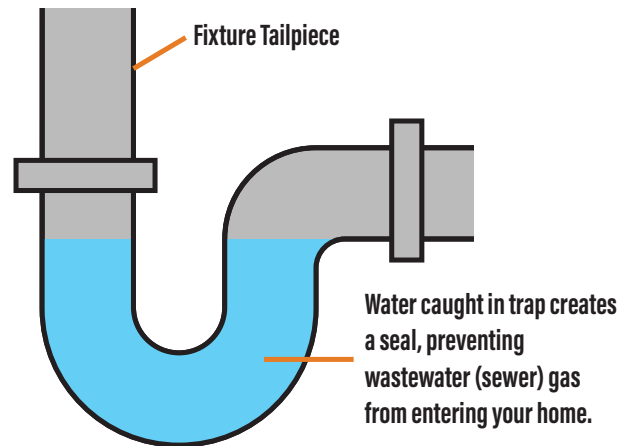
- When you are notified that smoke testing is going to occur in your neighborhood you should make sure that all plumbing traps connected to your sinks, tubs/showers and floor drains have water in them. This can be done by pouring three cups of water in them or running the faucet for 60 seconds.
- Frequently used plumbing traps typically have water in them; however, if not frequently used, traps can go dry allowing smoke (and sewer gas) into your home.
- If water is in the plumbing traps, the water will prevent smoke from entering your house through the pipes (see diagram).

Do I need to be home during the smoke test?

No. Inspection crews will not need to enter your home to complete the smoke test.

Why is the smoke test date flexible?

This testing cannot be conducted in rainy or very windy conditions, so the test date can sometimes be delayed. Also, other activities in the project may cause the timeline to shift unexpectedly.



What can be expected on the day of the smoke test?

- Most homes will only be in the test area for one or two set ups.
- Each set up takes approximately 30 minutes.
- Smoke test crews will walk around the outside of your house and yard looking for smoke exiting the sewer system.
- If you are home and see smoke inside or outside your home, you can notify a member of Halifax Water staff on site.

Who has been notified that smoke testing is occurring?

Police, Fire Departments, District Councillor, Halifax Water Customer Care and your neighbours in the testing area.

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