

NOTICE OF SANITARY SEWER SMOKE TESTING

City of Decatur, IN Sanitary Sewer Smoke Testing

Beginning on or after June 26, 2017, the City of Decatur will be working with Wessler Engineering to perform smoke testing on select portions of the sanitary sewers in your area. The evaluation is part of a study to identify sources of non-sanitary flow. **You are receiving this notice because your property is within the area to be tested.**

Smoke testing involves blowing harmless smoke into the sewer system to determine the location of connections. Those connections, along with any leaks, will be marked with bright surveying paint (non-permanent) to aid in their future location and correction. Wessler testing crews will be driving marked vehicles with flashing lights and will be wearing safety vests for their ready identification.

Under normal circumstances, if your plumbing is working properly, the smoke used to conduct this test should not enter your home/business. You may see smoke coming from the vents on the roof of your home/business. This is normal. When smoke does enter a building, it often enters through fixtures that are not routinely used. Therefore, **we request that you run water for a minute or two through all of your fixtures and floor drains when you receive this notice to ensure all traps are full of water.**

Smoke used for this test is manufactured specifically for this application. The smoke is **non-toxic** and non-staining. It has a slight oily odor but is clean and **harmless** to people, pets, food and material goods. Any smoke that happens to enter your home/business should clear in a few minutes if you open the doors and windows.

We appreciate your cooperation because this testing is an important tool necessary to evaluate the sewer systems. If you have specific questions or concerns, you may call the following project representatives:

Paul Robison, Field Engineer
Wessler Engineering, (260) 452-0725

Anne Butcher, Superintendent
City of Decatur Wastewater Dept., (260) 724-4218

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- Q. What is the purpose of smoke testing?
A. To find connections to and leaks in sewers.
- Q. What does the smoke look and smell like?
A. The smoke is white in appearance and has a slightly oily odor.
- Q. Is the smoke harmful?
A. No, it is **not** harmful to your health and will **not** harm your pets, clothing, furnishings or food.
- Q. Do I need to be present during the testing?
A. No.
- Q. What should I do if smoke gets into my home/business?
A. Open windows and doors to let the smoke clear. Note the location of where the smoke is entering your home/business. This may indicate faulty plumbing, traps or seals.
- Q. If smoke gets into my home/business, how long does it take to clear?
A. Typically only a few minutes. Open windows, doors, and the use of fans will speed the process.
- Q. Is there anything I can do to help?
A. Yes, run water through all your fixtures, drains, and traps to ensure they are holding water. This is the best means of preventing smoke from entering your residence/business.
- Q. How long will the testing affect my home/business?
A. Typically less than one day.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this testing, please call the following individuals:

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Thank you again for your cooperation.