

Sewer System Smoke Testing

What is Sewer System Smoke Testing?

Clarksville Gas and Water routinely conducts surveys of Clarksville's wastewater collection system through a process called "smoke testing".

Smoke testing is a cost-effective preventative maintenance method to identify potential defects, cracks or opening in the City's wastewater collection system and to help crews locate areas in sewer lines for further examination. The information collected during this study will be used to improve and repair the wastewater collection system.

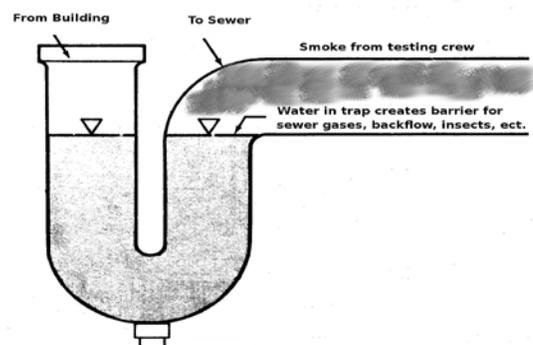
Workers will dispense non-toxic smoke into sewer lines and manholes and look for it to rise from areas in the sewer system, sewer line right-of-ways or residential yards. These areas will be marked and documented.

If a potential defect is found on a resident's property, a formal letter will be sent to the both the property owner and tenant to correct the problem.

Some Commonly Asked Questions

Do I have to be at home?

Residents are not required to be at home during smoke testing; however, pouring a few cups of water in all household drains will help prevent smoke from entering the home through drains. Smoke should not enter the home unless defective plumbing is present or drains are dry.



Is the smoke harmful?

No. It may cause coughing and it's not recommended to continually breathe in for long periods of time.

The smoke is non-toxic, leaves no residue and creates no fire hazard, but there is a possibility of it triggering smoke alarms. To help prevent smoke from entering your home, please pour a few



cups of water into all household drains, especially seldom used drains. Doing this will fill the drain traps and prevent smoke from entering your home.

If you have any concerns because of an adverse breathing condition please contact the Clarksville Sewer Construction office at **(931) 553-2424**.

What is the purpose of smoke testing?

To find possible leaks in the sanitary sewer system and roof drain connections.

What should I do if smoke gets into the home or business?

Contact the crew working in the area or call the Sewer Construction office at (931) 553-2424. Open windows for ventilation.

I will not be at home during the smoke testing and I have pets; what should I do?

The smoke is not harmful to pets, but providing ventilation may help if smoke enters the building. If you have proper connections and all of the traps have water in them, the likelihood of a problem is minimal.

If smoke enters a home or business, how long does it take to dissipate?

This will depend on how much smoke enters the building and how much ventilation you can provide. Opening windows and ventilating normally clears smoke quickly.

Can smoke block sewer lines?

No. The smoke is vaporous.

What happens if defective sewer lines/plumbing or lack of traps are found?

Clarksville Gas and Water will document the findings and contact the property owner and/or tenant to determine what steps are necessary to remedy the problem.

For more information regarding smoke testing, please call our Sewer Construction office at (931) 553-2424.

Thank you for your cooperation and understanding as we work to improve and repair the wastewater collections system.