

NOTICE

SMOKE TESTING SEWER

McKim & Creed and Mead & Hunt are consultants conducting Smoke Testing of the Sanitary Sewer Lines on behalf of the City of Ft Myers Utilities Department.

Work Crews will be in your area within the next week:

July 2026

Smoke testing involves introducing a safe, non-toxic smoke into the sanitary sewer system to help identify damaged pipes, improper connections, and locations where stormwater or groundwater may be entering the City's sewer system.

During testing, you may notice smoke escaping from plumbing vent stacks on homes, holes in the ground, or other openings. This smoke is **NON-TOXIC, NON-STAINING, WHITE TO GRAY IN COLOR**, and **POSES NO FIRE HAZARD**. It is harmless to people, pets, and property and is used solely as a diagnostic tool to locate issues within the sewer system.

If your home or business is properly connected and vented, smoke should not enter the building. If smoke does enter your home or business during testing, it is recommended that you contact a licensed plumber to inspect your plumbing system and identify any potential defects, improper connections, or dry drain traps.

ADD WATER TO YOUR SINKS & FLOOR DRAINS

As a precaution, homeowners are encouraged to pour approximately one gallon of water into each floor drain before testing begins. Water in drain traps helps prevent sewer gases from entering the home and may evaporate from infrequently used drains over time. While smoke should not enter a properly functioning plumbing system, homeowners may wish to open bathroom windows for ventilation and close bathroom doors during testing as an added precaution. If you are away from home during the testing period and discover smoke upon your return, please contact our office at **239-478-9152**.

IMPORTANT! If there is any individual in your home or business who has respiratory problems and/or mobility limitations, please notify us at 239- 478-9152 prior to testing.



www.FortMyersSanitarySewerEvaluation.com

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How long will the testing take?

Crews may be in your area for several hours, but the actual testing typically takes between 45 and 60 minutes.

What should I do if smoke enters my home or business?

Do Not Be Alarmed. Open windows to all ventilation and note the location of the smoke emission. Smoke will clear within a few minutes. Exit the building and notify the smoke testing personnel in the area. IF YOU HAVE ANY DOUBT AS TO THE SOURCE OF THE SMOKE IN YOUR HOME OR YARD, PLEASE CALL 911 IMMEDIATELY.

Does the smoke used have an odor?

The smoke has a distinctive but not unpleasant odor. Visibility and odor last only a few minutes with adequate ventilation.

Why do you recommend evacuating the structure?

The smoke is safe, non-toxic, non-staining, and harmless to you, children, pets, plants, food, materials, and creates no fire hazard. Those with respiratory conditions should take special precautions.

I am a pet owner and will not be home during the testing.

The smoke is not harmful to pets. If possible, leave pets in a room without any plumbing fixtures and with the door closed to isolate them from any smoke that may enter the house.

What does it mean if smoke enters my house?

If smoke enters your home or business during the test, it may indicate there are deficiencies in the plumbing that may allow potentially dangerous sewer gases to enter. Please contact your plumber to further investigate the source and remediation.

Do I have to be home during the test to give testing staff access? How will I know if smoke enters my house?

No, inspection crews will not need to enter your home. The purpose of the Smoke Test is to identify sources of rain or ground water entering the sewer system.

Can the smoke testing activate the smoke alarm?

Yes, smoke alarms may activate during smoke testing if the home/business is not properly plumbed, or if the water traps are dry. If possible, open windows and/or doors for ventilation. If you have any doubt of the source of the smoke, please call 911.

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