

# SMOKE TESTING FAQ'S

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## What is smoke testing?

Smoke testing is a method used to identify leaks, broken pipes, and improper connections in the sanitary sewer system. During testing, a non-toxic smoke is introduced into the sewer lines to show where unwanted water may be entering the system.

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## Why is Quadvest conducting smoke testing?

Smoke testing helps:

- Identify locations where rainwater or runoff enters the sewer system
  - Detect broken pipes, manholes, or faulty connections
  - Prevent sewer backups into homes
  - Reduce operating and maintenance costs
  - Extend the life of the wastewater treatment systems
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## What should residents expect?

Field crews will place equipment over neighborhood manholes and push non-toxic smoke through sewer lines. Smoke may be visible coming from manholes, storm drains, roof vents, or the ground. Testing typically lasts about 30 minutes per block.

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## Is the smoke safe?

Yes. The smoke used for testing is non-toxic, non-flammable, and similar to smoke used at concerts or performances. The smoke dissipates quickly and does not leave stains or residue.

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## Do residents need to be home?

No. The smoke testing crew will not need to enter homes or businesses during the testing process.

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## How can residents prepare?

To help prevent smoke from entering your home:

- Run water in sinks, tubs, and floor drains
- Flush toilets
- Pour water into any unused drains to ensure traps contain water

If someone in your home has respiratory concerns or mobility limitations, contact Quadvest in advance.

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## What if smoke enters my home?

If smoke enters a home during testing, it is not harmful. Open windows or doors to allow it to dissipate. Smoke entering a building may indicate a plumbing issue, and a licensed plumber may be needed to inspect the system.


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## Are Emergency Responders notified?

Yes. Local fire and police departments are informed about the testing in advance so they are aware of the activity in the community.

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**For Questions or Concerns, please contact us:**

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