



## Fog Testing in the Madawaska SPS Catchment Area

Works Department

April 3, 2025

Public Notice

The Regional Municipality of Durham is working with Civica Infrastructure on an Inflow and Infiltration (I/I) Reduction study. The study's objectives are to identify sources of rainwater entering the sanitary sewers and develop a plan to reduce these flows.

The sanitary sewer system is an underground pipe network that collects wastewater produced by houses, businesses and industries. The purpose of the pipe network is to direct the wastewater to a treatment plant where the water is treated before being discharged into Lake Ontario. Wastewater is the water that has been used by the community and disposed of including any water that enters the sanitary sewers from toilets, sinks, showers and other appliances.

I/I occurs when water enters the sanitary sewers through undesired connections such as roof downspouts. The rainwater and groundwater reduce the capacity of the sanitary pipe network and the treatment plant. This also increases the risk of overloading the pipe network and potential basement flooding.

In order to identify sources of I/I, Civica Infrastructure, with support from the Region, will be conducting a sewer fog testing program in your neighbourhood (map below) throughout the period of **April 7 to April 18, 2025** between the hours of 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Fog testing is a safe and easy way to locate potential sources of I/I in the system.

### What is fog testing?

The fog test consists of blowing a harmless colored vapour into the sewer manholes and pipes and observing where the fog exits from the system. The fog is expected to exit primarily out of manholes on the street and the sewer plumbing stack at the top of your house. It is also possible for fog to exit stormwater catch basins and roof downspouts at the side of a house. The fog used in the test has no odour, isn't harmful to your health, and will disappear after a few minutes. During the fog testing, Civica Infrastructure staff will complete a quick walk around your property to mark all the locations where fog is exiting the sewer system. Staff will not need to enter your house to conduct the fog test at any time.

### What do you need to do and what notices will you receive?

Fog testing will occur in your neighbourhood in the next one (1) to two (2) weeks. You will receive an orange door hanger notice (one to five business days before testing in your immediate area. When you have received the door hanger, pour one pail of water (approximately five to six litres) into any infrequently used sinks, showers and bathtubs, as well as your basement floor drain. The basement floor drain is typically a small, perforated metal plate located on your basement floor. It is usually located near a low spot in the basement floor close to the furnace or laundry room.

You do not need to be home for the fog testing, but you can be home while the test is occurring. If you have additional questions or concerns, please contact:

Region Contact:  
Denis Beaulne  
Environmental Engineer  
905-242-0201  
[denis.beaulne@durham.ca](mailto:denis.beaulne@durham.ca)

Civica Contact:  
Jerwin Bersalona, C. Tech  
Team Lead, Operations  
905-417-9792 ext. 2308  
289-217-7962  
[jborsalona@civi.ca](mailto:jborsalona@civi.ca)

Frew Tadesse  
Project Manager  
437-370-6831 ext. 2326  
647-572-1982  
[ftadesse@civi.ca](mailto:ftadesse@civi.ca)

If this information is required in an accessible format, please dial 311 (within Regional limits) or 1-800-372-1102.

Follow the Region of Durham on social media @RegionOfDurham

# FOG TESTING AREA MAP



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**The Regional Municipality of Durham Works Department**  
**605 Rossland Rd. E., Whitby Ont. L1N 6A3**  
**Telephone: 905-668-7711 or 1-800-372-1102**  
**durham.ca**

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## Frequently Asked Questions

### What are sanitary sewers?

Sanitary sewers are pipes that are found underground that collect the wastewater produced by homes, businesses and industries, and direct it to a treatment plant.

### What is wastewater?

Wastewater is the water that has been used by the community and disposed of; including any water that enters the sanitary sewers from toilets, sinks, showers and other appliances.

### What is Inflow and Infiltration (I/I)?

Inflow and Infiltration (I/I) describes the rainwater and groundwater that enters the sanitary sewers. In most municipalities, a separate storm sewer system is responsible for collecting rainwater runoff. However, when rainwater or groundwater enters the sanitary sewer system, it is known as Inflow and Infiltration.

### What is the purpose of fog testing the sanitary sewer system?

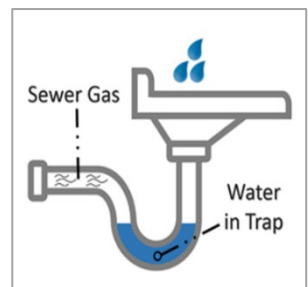
The purpose of the test is to make sure the sanitary sewer is working at its best. Fog testing is a simple, cost effective and quick method of testing the sanitary sewer system. It can locate where rainwater or groundwater is entering the system.

### What should I do to prepare for fog testing?

Please fill drains and rarely used sinks with one pail (approximately 5 to 6 litres) of water on the day you receive the orange door hanger.

### Will fog enter my home?

The fog is not intended to enter your home, only the internal plumbing system. Each drain should have a gooseneck installed (see picture on the right). This will prevent fog from entering your home. If fog enters your home, Civica recommends opening windows for ventilation and pouring some water down the drain. It is also recommended that you consider contacting a licensed professional plumber to investigate possible defects in your plumbing.



If you are at home during testing, document the location of the fog and contact Jerwin Bersalona, C.Tech (Team Lead, Operations) at 905-417-9792 ext. 2308 or 289-217-7962. If you cannot identify the source of the fog, please call 911 and they can determine whether it is related to the testing or if emergency response is needed. Staff from Civica Infrastructure will be on-site during the entire testing process.

### If fog gets into the house, how long does it take the fog to fade?

The fog will dissipate in a few minutes. If you are home and the fog is bothering you, leave the room, turn on an exhaust fan and/or open a window to speed up the process.

### Is the fog harmful? I have pets. Should I be concerned?

No. The fog is not harmful to you or your pet's health. It dissipates quickly and it will not harm clothing, draperies or furniture. If you will not be home, you can leave windows partially open for ventilation, should any fog enter your home.