



HOPEWELL TOWNSHIP

1700 CLARK BOULEVARD
ALIQUIPPA, PA 15001
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REQUIREMENT FOR CERTIFICATION OF SANITARY SEWER STATUS PRIOR TO THE SALE OF REAL ESTATE SERVED BY PUBLIC SANITARY SEWERS BOTH WITHIN AND OUTSIDE OF THE SERVICE AREA OF THE WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITIES OF HOPEWELL TOWNSHIP AND AS A CONDITION OF THE ISSUANCE OF MUNICIPAL LIEN LETTERS AND PROPERTY TAX VERIFICATION LETTERS

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE

Property Owner must prepare and submit an Application at least 30 days before the date of sale.

Hopewell Township shall perform the dye test, smoke test, and/or air test.

- Applicant Passes Test - Receive Certification.
- Applicant Fails Test - Correct violations and Retest.

Temporary Document of Certification can be obtained between 11/15 and 04/01 depending upon weather conditions.

- Applicant to provide \$3,000.00 Security to guarantee testing and any necessary repairs.
- Written Agreement between Seller/Buyer/Township to perform testing and make any necessary repairs.

Testing shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

1. Dye-testing each downspout and area drain.
2. Dye-testing foundation drains by flooding or injection.
3. Smoke-testing of public sewer and lateral sewer to the house trap.
4. Smoke testing of building drain on house side of trap.
5. Air testing of lateral.
6. Hydrostatic testing of lateral.
7. Internal inspection of main sewer and/or lateral sewer during periods of saturated ground and/or precipitation.
8. All testing shall be performed on a pass-fail basis with the Township having the right to reject any tests or test results which it feels are inconclusive or inaccurate.

The sewerage system shall be retested after any corrective actions have been undertaken to demonstrate that the illegal connection/defect has been eliminated/repaired.

TYPICAL DYE TESTING PROCEDURE

1. Clean the Hopewell Township main sanitary sewer line prior to internal camera inspection.
2. Internally inspect the main sanitary sewer line using a sewer camera in order to locate the sanitary sewer lateral connection of the property to be tested.
3. Flush red dye down a toilet or drain to verify the connection and operation of the sanitary sewer system of the property to be tested.
4. After verification of the connection and operation of the sanitary sewer system, the sanitary sewer line associated with the property to be tested is flushed with water to remove all traces of the red dye.
5. The lower level/basement of the property to be tested is inspected to determine the presence of interior sump pumps or french drains. All sump pumps must be operational in order for the test to be completed. Dye and water will be added to the sump pump pit and the pump will be operated manually to determine if it is connected to the sanitary sewer system.



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6. Testing outside of the home/building may consist of the injection of a blue dye solution into at least two (2) french drain sites, normally on opposite sides of the house. These two (2) sites are tested for ten minutes each.
7. All downspouts that are entering the ground will be tested for five minutes each with a blue dye solution.
8. Any exterior drain, including but not limited to driveway drains and stairwell drains, are tested with a blue dye solution for five minutes each.
9. The last site to be tested is the sanitary sewer lateral. Beginning at the house, test sites may be located every ten (10) feet until the property line or edge of right-of-way is reached. Each site may be tested for twenty minutes with a green dye solution. The dye test of the sanitary sewer lateral is complete when the property line or edge of the right-of-way is reached.

DYE TEST FAQs

1. Do you use a high pressure water jet for the test?
No. Hopewell Township uses very low pressure, much less than the pressure exerted by a garden hose.
2. How long does the test take when injection testing is performed?
On average, the test takes approximately 2 to 3 hours to complete. However, each job varies due to yard size, plumbing complexities, number of test sites, presence of sump pumps, size of home, etc.
3. Do I need to be home during the entire test?
No, not the entire test. Someone does need to be home for verification of the sanitary sewer connection and inspection of the lower level/basement of the property. The remainder of the test takes place outside of the home.
4. Will I get the results when the test is complete?
No. The test results are reviewed by the Sewer Department Supervisor and are usually complete by the next business day. All paperwork is forwarded to the Sewer Department Office. At that time, the results are available to the property owner.
5. Can Hopewell Township repair or replace my sanitary sewer line?
No. Hopewell Township does not make any repairs to private sanitary sewer lines.
6. Can Hopewell Township recommend a plumber to perform the necessary repairs?
No. However, a list of plumbers and excavators that have a current permit to work in Hopewell Township is available at the Sewer Department Office. Hopewell Township recommends that you obtain at least three price proposals for your own protection.
7. Is the purpose of the dye test just a way for Hopewell Township to make money?
No. Hopewell Township has a responsibility to remove extraneous flow (ground water and surface water) from the sanitary sewer system. It is quite costly to transport and treat unpolluted water such as ground water and surface water through the sanitary sewer system and wastewater treatment facility.