



City of Lakewood
Department of Housing
and Building

City of Lakewood, Ohio
12650 Detroit Ave.
Lakewood, OH 44107
(216) 529-6270
building.permits@lakewoodoh.gov

DYE TEST FAQ'S

What is a dye test?

Dye is injected into each exterior storm connection (downspouts and drains) and flushed through with water. A city representative will verify which sewer the dyed water exits in the street. If the water exits the storm sewer, the test passes; if it exits in the sanitary sewer, corrections will be needed.

Why is a dye test required?

Sanitary connections to storm sewers are prohibited by law. The Clean Water Act, enforced by US EPA and Ohio EPA, requires the City and property owners to mitigate storm water drainage into the sanitary sewer system to prevent effluent from entering waterways during heavy storm conditions.

When is a dye test required?

Prior to **any** work on the *underground* storm system: new construction, additions, laterals, drains, waterproofing, water controlling, etc. A dye test is **not** currently required for *aboveground* work on gutters and downspouts.

What if incorrect connections are found?

If a sanitary connection to the storm system is found, the problem must be corrected immediately. If a storm connection to the sanitary system is found, ALL ***new work must be properly connected.*** It is likely that eventually every property in Lakewood will be required to remediate incorrect connections. Therefore, BE AWARE that while you are digging or doing planned sewer work can be the most economical time to address any incorrect connections.

What if I have a combined sewer system?

If major work is to be done, we strongly recommend making the separation at this time, while the excavation is open.

How to I order a dye test, and what is the cost?

Call the Building Department at 216-529-6270, provide your name, phone number, the address where the work is to be performed, and a brief description of the work. The average lead time is two weeks and there is no cost for the initial test.

What else do I need to know?

- 1) After the work is complete, but before covering, you or your contractor will be responsible for performing a verification test to confirm the work has been properly connected to the city sewer system. This must be performed in the presence of a city representative and can be coordinated with your building inspector.

- 2) Splashing downspouts is an acceptable solution as long as water is carried away from the foundation and no nuisance is created.
- 3) Dye tests are valid for 5 years.