

DYE TEST INFORMATION

CITY OF VICTORIA

ENGINEERING & PARKS DEPARTMENT

Dye testing is a procedure used by the City's Engineering Department to determine if buildings:

- A) Have sanitary sewer and storm drain pipes connected to municipal mains.
- B) Have the sanitary sewer and storm drain pipes incorrectly connected (cross-connections) to the appropriate municipal main.

Dye testing is usually done in conjunction with a building **permit application**, a **subdivision** or **strata title application** or as part of **Engineering staff investigations**.

Prior to the City attending the site to carry out the dye test the property owner shall:

1. Ensure that the sanitary sewer and/or storm drain pipes to be tested are clean and not blocked with roots or debris.
2. Identify the underground system to be dye tested:
 - **Storm Drain** - Agreed to provide access to the rainwater leader (downspout) on their property with an outside water hookup and a garden hose, minimum 8m/25ft length. The downspout opening should be at ground level and should be large enough so that a garden hose can be inserted into the downspout. If possible, water should be discharged from the opening to the drain tile, minimum 30 minutes prior to the dye test.
 - **Sanitary Sewer** - The dye is placed in a toilet and therefore access to the building is necessary. The City's dye test crew will phone and pre-arrange for a convenient time for the dye test. The property owner or an agent of the homeowner must be present. This procedure should not take more than 10 minutes.

DYE TEST RESULTS

1. Building's storm drain pipe incorrectly connected to City sanitary sewerage system

Action - A letter will be sent to the property owner from the City's Pollution Abatement officer advising of the wrongful cross-connection. A copy of this letter will be filed in the Engineering Department records.

2. Building's sanitary sewer pipes incorrectly connected to City storm drain system

Action - A letter will be sent to the property owner from the City's Pollution Abatement Officer. This letter will be the owner's official notice that this wrongful cross-connection must be rectified within thirty (30) days, at the property owner's expenses.

Immediately following receipt of the letter the property owner shall contact the City's Pollution Abatement Officer (361-0314) and the City's plumbing inspectors to arrange a meeting to discuss the steps required to be taken by the property owner to rectify the wrongful cross-connection.

3. All proper connection configurations for either sanitary sewer and storm drain

Property owner and/or applicant, as well as the department requesting the dye test will be notified of the dye test result. The results of the dye test will be in a written report. Copies of this report will be provided to the Plumbing Department, the property owner and anyone who has an interest in the results. The original dye test report goes into the Water & Environment Street Files to be microfilmed.