



City of Racine  
730 Washington Avenue,  
Racine, WI 53403

## City of Racine Residents Notice of Sanitary Sewer Smoke Testing

As part of the sewer maintenance program, the City of Racine has retained the services of a consultant (AECOM) to perform sanitary sewer smoke testing in your neighborhood. Sanitary sewers will be examined for sources of clear water entry into the system. During the examination, smoke will be blown through the sanitary sewers from a manhole. Smoke will then appear from any roof drains, catch basins, or house stacks connected to the system. In addition, smoke may appear from cracks in the pavement above the sewer, from lawns, or around homes which have foundation drains connected to the sewer.

Smoke may also appear in basements by means of unused floor drains, disconnected or faulty plumbing fixtures or from any other direct openings to the house lateral. Because of this possibility, **residents are advised to pour a bucket of water down all floor drains, sinks, or other plumbing fixtures that are not used regularly.** This will fill the plumbing trap and prevent entry of smoke. The smoke used is non-staining and it will disappear rapidly, without leaving a residue or odor, in the unlikely event it does get into the building.

If smoke should appear in your building during the test, contact a member of the survey team working on your street. The smoke will dissipate more quickly if a window or outside door is opened in the affected area.

---

### Note:

The smoke to be used in this testing program has been analyzed by a team of experts in the fields of industrial hygiene, toxicology, and medicine. Their reports include:

“...none of the smokes (tested) appears capable of causing even minor injury to people who may be exposed during controlled use.”

---

Individuals with respiratory problems should avoid direct exposure to the smoke. Anyone with health or other concerns should call Matt Murphy with AECOM at (414) 944-6149. If your call is not answered directly, you may either leave a phone mail message or leave your name and address with the operator. A field crew member will contact you about your concerns prior to testing of your street.

---

**Smoke testing should occur within 1 to 3 working days of receipt of this notice.**

Testing will not take place in inclement weather.

**If you have any questions, please contact:**

Matt Murphy  
AECOM  
(414) 944-6149

Ara Molitor  
City Engineer  
(262) 636-9487