

## DYE TESTING – WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection required local governments to [adopt a corrective action plan](#) in order to control overloading of the sanitary sewer system and one of the requirements is to remove rain (or stormwater) from these types of sewer lines.

### What if my drains and downspouts are connected the sanitary sewer?

Sanitary sewers are designed to accept sewage flows from the households serviced by the sewer. The sudden, rapid flow of rainwater from roofs, patios, driveways, etc. can overload the sanitary sewer system and is not permitted to be conveyed in this system.

### Why do I need to complete a dye test?

A dye test will determine if stormwater is entering the sanitary sewer system. Stormwater entering sanitary sewer systems are a leading contributor to sewage basement backups and sanitary sewer overflows. A positive test (failed dye test) will require the disconnection of illegal stormwater connections from the sanitary sewers.

### How does the dye test work?

Dye testing involves placing a non-staining water soluble dye tablet in the drain or downspout of your property and flushing it with water. The area is then examined for the appearance of traces of dyed water.

### I'm going to sell my home – what are the first steps I need to take to meet this ordinance?

1. Property owners must contact PWSA and receive an [Evidence of Compliance Certificate](#). A form and a \$25 processing fee will be required.
2. PWSA will determine whether or not the property is located in a combined sewer area or a sanitary sewer area.
3. **No test is required** if the property is located in a combined sewer area. The property sale will be able to move forward.
4. **A test is required** if the property is located in a sanitary sewer area. A dye test will be performed and the results must be reported to PWSA.

### What happens if my property does not pass the dye test?

Corrective actions by the property owner must be taken in order to pass a subsequent dye test. PWSA recommends consulting a County licensed plumber with underground utility experience to determine the correct course of action. After PWSA receives confirmation of repairs being made in accordance with current codes, the property owner will receive a certificate of compliance to proceed with the sale.

**For more information on Dye Testing, contact PWSA at 412.255.0801**