



DYE TESTING QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

What is a dye test and how is it done?

A dye test is a way of inspecting your sewage system or determining if there is an illegal gray/black water discharge if your home is tied into sanitary (municipal) sewers. A small amount of fluorescent (Fluorescein) dye is flushed down the toilet or put into your septic tank or distribution box. Over the next several days, the ditch, catch basin or surface of the ground will be inspected for evidence of dye. There is no cost for this test to be performed. Please keep in mind that laundry water and other gray water (utility sinks, basement sinks etc.) is considered to be sewage. For this reason, an in home inspection will be conducted to assure that all gray water is also being properly discharged.

When is a dye test required?

When a realty inspection is requested and/or when a nuisance complaint is received a dye test **may** be required to be conducted. Evidence of sewage in a nearby ditch or catch basin is also cause for testing. At times, an entire street or area may need to be checked to determine the source of where a problem(s) is occurring.

What kind of dye is used and is it safe?

Fluorescent dye (also known as Fluorescein dye) is very concentrated. This dye is non-toxic and resembles anti-freeze (yellow-green) when it is discharged. Other colors of dye (red, blue) may also be utilized.

What happens if dye is detected?

If dye is detected then that is confirmation that sewage is illegally discharging or draining in that particular area. A **Notice of Violation** will then be written outlining the necessary corrective measures. In some cases septic replacement may be required.

Why should we be concerned about sewage?

Sewage contains disease-causing pathogens. Some illnesses that could result from sewage related sources include but are not limited to: Hepatitis A, Typhoid, Cholera, Polio, Dysentery, and Gastroenteritis.

Dye testing is necessary to discover sewage-related nuisances and to help us ensure that the environment is safe for you and your family.

If you have any additional questions or concerns, please contact this department. The number for the Environmental Health Division is (419) 354-2702 and our normal business hours are M- F from 8:30A.M. – 4:30 P.M. Dye tests are done normally scheduled M- W between 8:30-3:45 P.M.