

FTMSA Lateral Sewer Service Inspection

Prior to selling a residential house, commercial building or any facility tied into the Authority's sanitary sewer system, the owner(s), trustee, realtor or other responsible agent ("Applicant") must submit an Application for Inspection to the Authority for the property being sold for a lateral sewer line inspection. The cost of this inspection is \$350.

Alternatively, the Applicant may elect to replace the entire line, from the building to the Authority's main sewer line and install cleanouts and inspection stacks as required by Authority lateral sewer service specifications. Replacement of part or the entire lateral sewer will require an inspection by the Authority.

The Authority staff will perform the following:

1. Smoke and Dye Test
2. Video Camera Inspection of sewer lateral.

An application for inspection can be found on our website at www.ftmsa.org or picked up at the treatment plant located at 3001 Meadowbrook Road, Murrysville PA. 15668. An inspection report will be filled out by Authority staff and list any sewer deficiencies which are not in compliance. The Applicant will then need to have those deficiencies reported, repaired and approved by the Authority prior to selling of the property.

It is recommended that submission of the application take place upon listing of the property. This will help give the applicant time to have corrections made prior to closing. If the lateral fails, corrections MUST be made prior to closing. A no-lien letter, required by most lending institutions for closings, will not be issued by the Authority until the above testing has been completed and any deficiencies corrected. A Certification of Sewer Lateral Inspection will be issued upon a "passing" inspection.

Testing

The purpose of the above testing is to ensure that there are no defects or connections that would allow extraneous water to enter the sanitary sewer such as but not limited to; French drains, down-spout tie-ins and infiltrations of ground water. Video camera inspection with digital recording allows the Authority and the Applicant view the condition of the sewer lateral.

Testing components:

Dye is placed in all downspouts, driveway drains, area drains, stormwater drains, etc. and the downstream manhole is checked for presence of dye. Observation of dye indicates that illegal connection(s) exists and must be corrected.

Smoke is introduced into the sewer line. Areas of damaged pipe will let this smoke escape up through the ground and will be visible to the person(s) performing the smoke test.

Access to the house will be needed to visually inspect for any sump pumps illegally tied into the sanitary sewer.

CCTV camera will be inserted into the entire length of the sewer lateral and digitally video recorded. Any deficiencies in the lateral can be observed and located.

Prohibited Tie-ins

Connection of prohibited facilities to the sanitary sewer include: driveway drains, outside cellar stairwell drains, outside window wells, downspouts, foundation drains or any facility conducting storm water into the sanitary sewer by any means.

Additional Notes

Inspection stacks are needed at the property line.

Cleanouts are located every 100 feet of lateral, must have watertight caps and be at or above finished grade. Cleanouts must remain uncovered permanently. A bronze cleanout plug shall be installed over the top of the inspection stack which shall be removable. If inspection stacks or cleanouts do not exist, they will need to be installed.

Fresh air vents must be 6 inches above the surface of the ground and must have a commercially manufactured vent cap to keep out leaves, debris and animals. Those below grade must be raised to meet this standard.

Fees

The Authority charges a \$350 application fee.

The Applicant is responsible for hiring a plumber/plumbing contractor if the sewer lateral has failed. Since plumbers will have a separate fee, the Authority recommends that the Applicant obtain several estimates for repairs.