

3-Day Advanced Notice for Sewer Flushing

As part of the Portsmouth Sewershed Inflow & Infiltration Reduction Program, sewer cleaning by way of flushing is required to clean the sewers for subsequent inspections. Inspections are carried out by way of closed circuit television (CCTV), running a camera through the sewer from maintenance hole to maintenance hole. Work will be completed by D.M. Robichaud Associates Ltd ('No Dig') and Civica.

If you have received this notice then there will be work beginning in your area within the next few days and lasting no more than a couple of weeks. Generally speaking, the cleaning will take place first, followed by the camera inspection a few days later. The work is intended to be completed in April, but the camera inspections will likely continue on later into the spring to observe leaks in the sewer system that mostly frequently occur during wet-weather and saturated groundwater conditions.

The work will not affect the majority of homeowners or cause any disruption to service, but, there is a small chance that small spills, noise and odours may result. Here's why: The sewer cleaning process uses a high-pressure jet to scour the pipe. When the jet passes by your home's connection to the sewer, it creates a pressure wave. This pressure wave has the ability to push-out, or pull-in the water and air held inside your plumbing and U-shaped traps and this includes your toilets, showers, sinks and floor drains. In most cases, nothing happens, but sometimes it does.

As a precaution, or if your house has been effected by this type of work before, we advise you to i) keep your toilet lids closed during times when they are not being used and ii) flush after every use. Also, to prevent odours, it is advisable to pour 2 litres of water into infrequently used plumbing fixtures to ensure the trap is full, ideally before AND after the work takes place. If water appears to be spilled around your toilet or floor drain, please accept our apologies as we perform this important sewer maintenance work. This water can simply be wiped up - it was just the water that was stored in the trap.

In the event of an EMERGENCY or SEWAGE SPILL that you feel may be related to this work, your first point of contact should be:

Contractor's Project Coordinator, Lisa Pike at 1-877-RELINED.

Alternatively, contact Utilities Kingston's Inspector, Jeff Rogers at (613) 929-3756 or Utilities Kingston Customer Service directly at (613) 546-1181.