



2022 Business Development Series

Maintaining Your Business:
Backflow Device Testing, Dye
Testing, and Other Maintenance
Tips

6/8/2022

Agenda

- **Dye Testing**
- **Building Flushing**
- **Backflow Prevention – Tracy Willy, Senior AMI and Billing Manager**
- **Conservation and Leak Detection – Elaine Hinrichs, Education and Outreach Associate**
- **Lead**



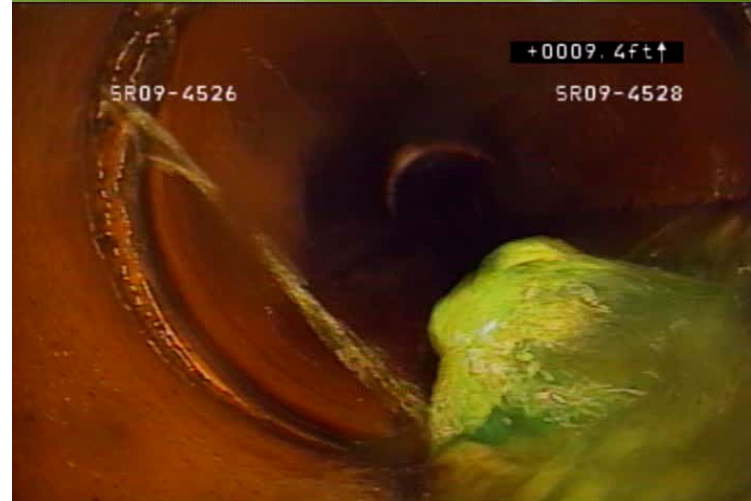
Dye Testing

- All property owners who wish to sell a property in the City of Pittsburgh must be in compliance with the Dye Testing Ordinance before the property can be sold
- Enacted in 2006
- Remove illegal surface storm water connections to sanitary systems



Dye Testing

- Dye tests are required for properties located within a Sanitary Sewer Only areas
- Those with combined sewers do not need a dye test
- Map online but must still obtain an Evidence of Compliance Certificate



Step 1: Evidence of Compliance Certificate

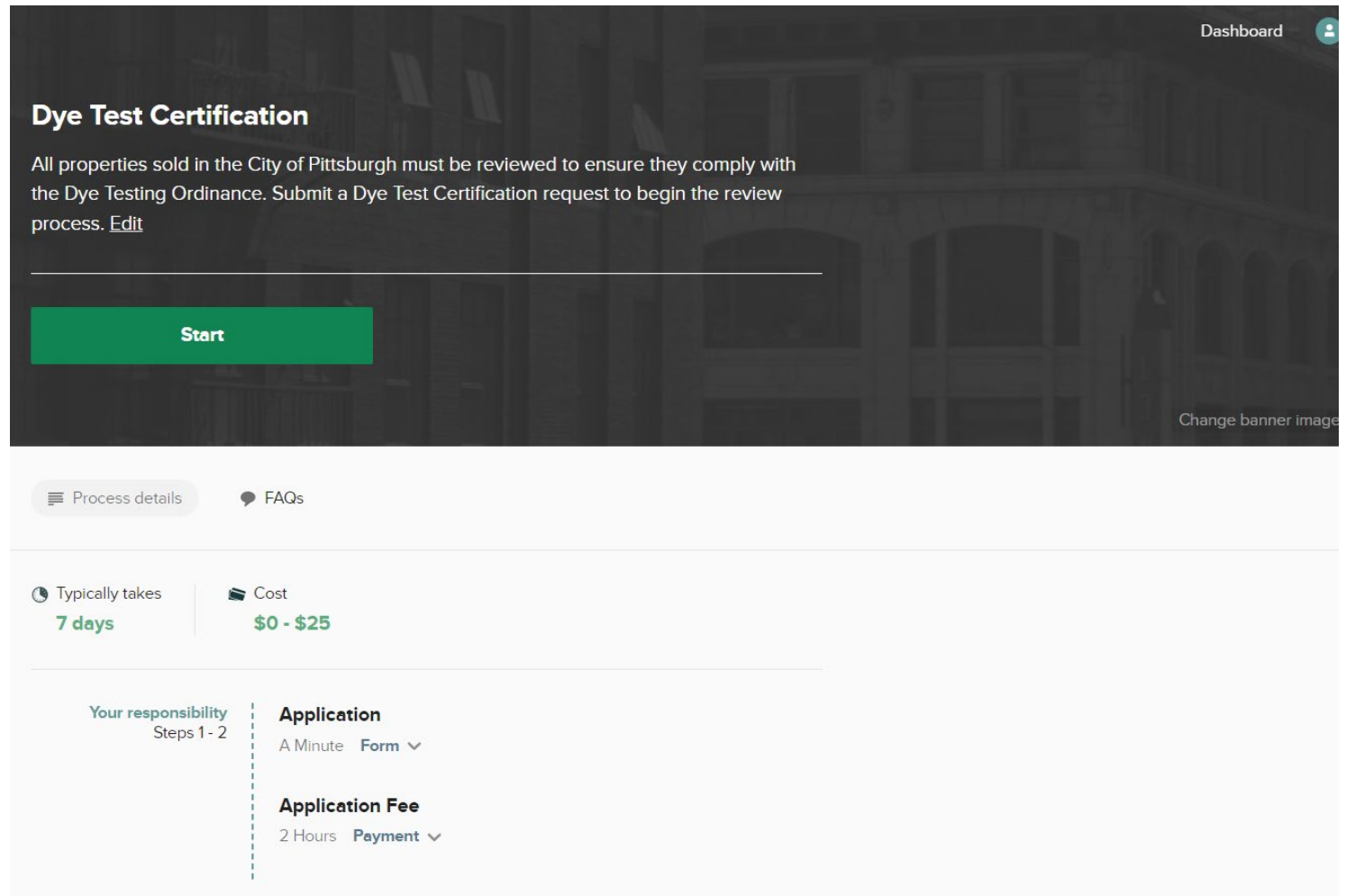
- In order to determine if your property is within a sanitary or combined sewer area, an [Evidence of Compliance Certificate Application](#) must be submitted to PWSA.
 - \$20 application fee
- Our engineering technicians will inform you if a dye test is required or if an Evidence of Compliance Certificate is already on file
 - Valid for 3 years


Step 2: Dye Test

- A dye test must be performed by a certified plumber or general contractor
- Results submitted on the dye test form
- Work with our staff until the property passes the dye test
- Evidence of Compliance Certificate is issued



CityGrows Process



Dashboard 


Dye Test Certification


All properties sold in the City of Pittsburgh must be reviewed to ensure they comply with the Dye Testing Ordinance. Submit a Dye Test Certification request to begin the review process. [Edit](#)

[Start](#)


[Change banner image](#)


[Process details](#) [FAQs](#)

 Typically takes
7 days

 Cost
\$0 - \$25


Your responsibility
Steps 1 - 2



Application
A Minute [Form](#) 

Application Fee
2 Hours [Payment](#) 












CityGrows Process

Additional Requirements

 Dye Test Results Required

 Linked subprocess: **Dye Test Results Required #384** 

Steps

-  1. Application 
-  2. Application Fee
-  3. Initial Property Review 
-  4. Dye Test Required 
-  5. Final Certificate Preparation 
-  6. Issue Certificate of Compliance
-  7. Certificate of Compliance Issued

Process completed



EVIDENCE OF COMPLIANCE CERTIFICATE DYE TESTING

ID: DYE-4597-0522 Property Address: 2355 Holt St, Pittsburgh PA 15203-2409
Ward: Ward 16 Allegheny Co. Lot/Block No.: 0013-C-00310-000
Owner's Name: Jeffrey & Angela Dodds

This is to certify that the property located at: 2355 Holt St, Pittsburgh PA 15203-2409
Is NOT located in a sanitary sewer area and a dye test is Not Required.

Reviewed by: Michelle Solomon Authorized by: William McFaddin
Title: Engineering Technician Title: Director of Operations
Signature: Michelle Solomon Signature: [Signature]
Date: 05/27/2022 Date of Issuance: 05/27/2022
Expiration Date: 3 Years from Date of Issuance

Disclose to Buyer: The issuance of this Evidence of Compliance Dye Testing Certificate is based upon information received from the registered plumber's Dye Test Results form that there are no illegal surface storm water connections to a sanitary sewer system, in violation of Chapter 433 of the City of Pittsburgh Code of Ordinances at the property inspected. This Evidence of Compliance Dye Testing Certificate does not guarantee that there are no City of Pittsburgh Property Maintenance Code violations, Allegheny County Health Department Code violations, or other violations in existence at the property.

Penn Liberty Plaza I info@pgh2o.com www.pgh2o.com Customer Service /
1200 Penn Avenue T 412.255.2423 Emergencies:
Pittsburgh PA 15222 F 412.255.2475 #pgh2o 412.255.2423

Building Flushing

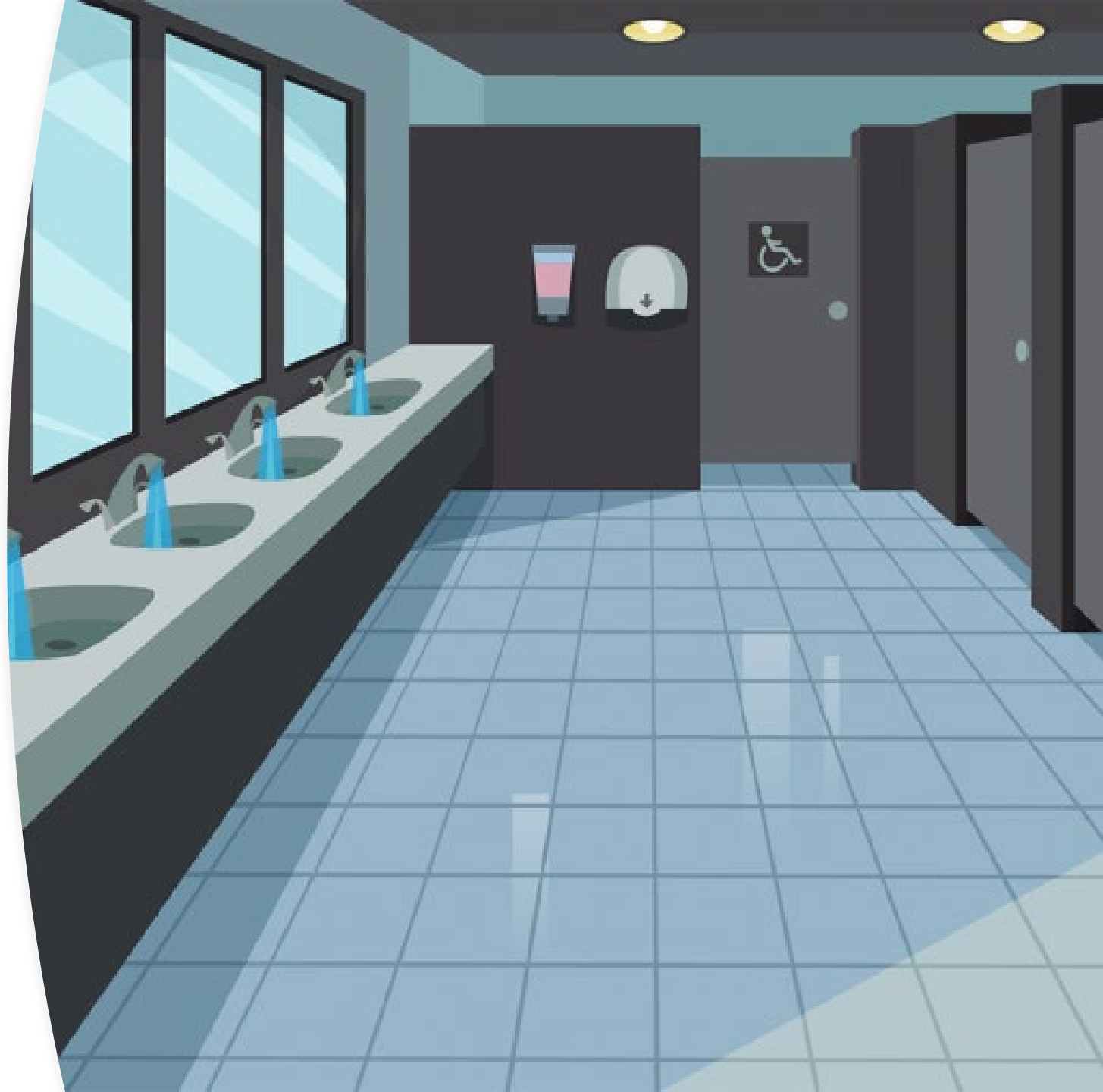
Why flush?

- Stagnant water can grow harmful bacteria or see a build-up of harmful material from deteriorating pipes
- Lower chlorine levels
- Can be days-months depending on plumbing conditions



Building Flushing

- PWSA cannot offer guidance on a specific plan of action for building flushing as each building is unique
- Hire a professional to create a written flushing plan for your building. This should include the condition and material of your pipes.
- Keep the plan handy for building managers and maintenance
- [Review the CDC Guide for Reopening Buildings](#)
- PWSA can provide information about the water quality entering your building - [Annual Water Quality Reports](#)





Backflow Prevention and Testing

Presented By Senior AMI and Billing Manager
Tracy Willy

June 8, 2022

What is a Backflow Prevention Device?

- Fixture installed on a private water service line
- Prevents the reverse flow of water from a building into the public water system

Common Backflow Prevention Device Types

1. Double Check Detector Assembly (DCD)
2. Reduced Pressure Zone Assembly (RPZ)






Backflow Regulations

- The Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974
- PUC Part III Rules and Regulations – Section B Construction and Maintenance of Facilities. Backflow Prevention Device
- 2017 Article XV Allegheny County Health Department Plumbing Code. Chapter 3 – 312.10.1 and 312.10.2



Testing Requirements

- Every commercial property waterline must be equipped with a backflow prevention device.
 - Multi-family units (over 4 units) are considered commercial properties and would need to install a device.
 - Single-family units may need to install a device if an irrigation system is present.
- 

Customer Notifications

RE: Annual Testing - Backflow Prevention Device - 1st Notice

Account:

Service Address:

Dear Customer,

The annual backflow prevention device test located above is due. Per the Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority (PWSA) Tariff Part III - Rules and Regulations, each backflow prevention device is required to be tested annually and the certification results are to be provided to the authority upon completion.


Failure to comply with this request within ninety (90) business days may result in water service interruption. To comply with the rules, please have your tester submit a backflow device test report through PWSA's online portal. All fields must be completed for successful test submission. Each device has its own unique PIN. To obtain a PIN please contact us at backflowinfo@pgh2o.com and provide us with the following information: Backflow device #, make, model, and size.

Please contact our Cross-Connection Control division at (412)-255-8800 or via email at Backflowinfo@pgh2o.com if you have any questions.

To read more about the importance of backflow prevention please visit www.pgh2o.com/backflow. You can reach our backflow compliance team by emailing backflowinfo@pgh2o.com.



Steps to Compliance

1. Letter Received by PWSA
 2. Contact an ASSE Certified Backflow Plumber
 3. Have the plumber install a device if there is not one or test the existing device
 4. The plumber will then upload the test results in our backflow application
 5. Upon approval of the test the plumber will receive a notification of the results
- 

Thank you for
your time. Are
there any
questions?





Maintaining Your Business

Conserving Water &
Preventing Stormwater
Pollution



Why Save Water?

- <1% of water on Earth can be used by humans for drinking, cleaning, or irrigating plants
- Treating and pumping water takes a lot of energy and money
- Reducing water usage can reduce your water bill and energy bills
- Protect the environment for future generations



Four Areas of Water Use Reductions



Reducing Water
Leaks



Increasing Water
Efficiency



Encouraging Water
Saving Behaviors



Reusing Water
Where Possible



Reducing Water Leaks



- On average, leaks can make up more than 6% of a facility's total water usage
- A toilet leaking 0.5 gallons per minute = 21,600 gallons per month
- Check water usage using meters or online portal
- Examine plumbing fittings and irrigation systems
- Dye test toilet tank water

Increasing Water Efficiency

- Replace bathroom fixtures with more efficient models
- Check any automatic sensors to ensure operating properly and avoiding unnecessary water use
- Use water smart landscaping and irrigation practices
- Evaluate relevant kitchen, laundry, and industrial equipment for potential water savings
- Optimize heating and cooling systems





Encouraging Water Saving Behaviors



- Keep an eye out for leaks and report immediately
- Sweep outside areas instead of hosing off
- Water plants in the morning or early evening
- Turn off the faucet while lathering soap
- Only run dishwashers and washing machines with full loads

Reusing Water Where Possible

- Capture rainwater from roofs in rain barrels or cisterns to water landscape areas outside
- Other onsite alternative water sources, such as treated gray water, can vary in quality and must be matched with an appropriate end use, such as toilet flushing, considering regulations and any necessary treatment



Why Prevent Pollution?

- Damages our streams, rivers, and oceans
- Harms fish and other wildlife
- Recreation and fishing suffer when water is unsafe and unhealthy
- Reduces downstream drinking water quality
- Keeping storm drains clear helps reduce local flooding during storms



Two Areas of Stormwater Pollution Prevention



Facility Management



Landscape
Maintenance



Facility Management



- Review current de-icing salt and/or sand application practices, reduce if overapplying
- Sweep sidewalks, loading docks, and parking areas and dispose of debris properly
- Cover dumpsters and check for leaks
- Cover any chemicals stored outside
- Rinse painting or cleaning materials in an indoor sink
- Never dump any materials or chemicals into storm drains



Landscape Maintenance



- Survey green spaces and landscaping practices
- Minimize fertilizer and pesticide use
- Fertilize in the fall rather than the spring
- Use native plants
- Manage trash and landscaping waste
- Never place yard waste in the street or near storm drains

More Information

Water Conservation:

www.pgh2o.com/water-conservation

www.epa.gov/watersense/commercial-buildings

Stormwater Pollution Prevention:

www.pgh2o.com/reducing-stormwater-pollution

Contact:

Elaine Hinrichs

Education & Outreach Associate

ehinrichs@pgh2o.com

412-738-1887



Lead Information for Commercial Structures

- Commercial properties own and maintain their water service line, up to and including the tap to the main
- Includes shut off valve in sidewalk or street
- Currently, our programs provide funding for residential property owners to replace their lead lines. No commercial funding except for daycares.
- Water main replacement projects will work with property owners to remove lead lines where we can



Any follow-up questions:

Jordan Treaster – Development Coordinator,
jtrestear@pgh2o.com

Julie Ascioffa – Industry Relations Manager,
jascioffa@pgh2o.com

Questions