

Keep stormwater out of sewer

Vapour testing information sheet

We live in one of the most beautiful parts of the world and our environment is particularly close to our hearts. Tasmania is home to some of the most stunning waterways and parklands and it is important that we all do our bit to protect the environment.

Our sewer network is not designed to manage the inflow and infiltration of stormwater during rain events. As part of our commitment to reducing the volume of stormwater entering our sewer network, we regularly carry out inspections on our sewer network and private properties throughout the state. One of the methods we use to inspect infrastructure is vapour testing.

What we are doing

- A machine is used to blow white vapour into the sewer network.
- The vapour is harmless – it is the product used to create effects in movies, theatres, music events and nightclubs.
- If there are issues in the sewer network or issues with private property stormwater pipes being incorrectly connected to the sewer, the vapour will escape from places where it should not appear, including poorly sealed maintenance holes, cracked sections of pipe, or roof gutters incorrectly connected to the sewer network.
- We may need to enter the outside of your property to take photos of vapour escaping from either TasWater infrastructure or your property's drainage infrastructure.
- We may also need to dye test your building gutters to confirm that no stormwater is entering the sewer network.
- There will be no interruption to your sewer service during this testing.

What to expect

- Puffs of vapour may be visible during the test from various points near your buildings such as the sewer vent pipe, usually located on the roof of your property.
- To minimise the chances of any vapour entering your house, on the morning of the test flush toilets and briefly run any showers, baths, sinks and basins to ensure there is a water seal in the "S" bends.



The photo above shows vapour escaping from an incorrectly connected council stormwater pit.