

HOW DOES A RAT HOLE ON MY PROPERTY RELATE TO A SANITATION ISSUE?

A smooth-looking hole in your yard that reappears when filled could indicate a sewer line break and a rat problem. Rats can exit the sewer system through pipe breaks and infest your property or neighborhood.

Rats or damaged sewer lines are a serious health hazard!

THE FIRST STEP...

DETERMINE IF YOU HAVE A SEWER BREAK.

The City of Portland, Bureau of Maintenance will check for a break by performing a dye test, free of charge.

**For questions concerning a
potential sewer break :**

City of Portland
503-823-1700

www.portlandonline.com/transportation

City of Fairview
503-665-9320

<http://www.ci.fairview.or.us/public.works.main.htm>

City of Gresham
503-618-2626

<http://www.ci.gresham.or.us/departments/des/>

City of Lake Oswego
503-635-0280

<http://www.ci.oswego.or.us/maintain/default.htm>

City of Troutdale
503-674-3300

<http://www.ci.troutdale.or.us/publicworks/>

City of Wood Village
503-667-6211

<http://www.ci.wood-village.or.us/cityutilities.htm>

For questions concerning trash, debris, grass, weeds, housing maintenance or disabled vehicles on private property in Portland City limits please contact:
City of Portland
Neighborhood Inspections Program
503-823-7306



Public Health

SO YOU HAVE A RAT HOLE?



**Multnomah County
Vector Control
& Code Enforcement
5235 N Columbia Blvd
Portland OR 97203-1923
503 988-3464
www.mchealth.org/vector**

WHAT IS A DYE TEST?

Dye tests use bright green, vegetable-based dyes to detect sewer breaks. The dye is placed into the hole on your property. Water is then added. If the dye appears in the main sewer line, it indicates positive sewer damage on your property.

WHY IS A DYE TEST THE FIRST STEP?

A hole on your property can have many causes. Breaks are the most common cause of holes found in your yard.

Do not attempt to fill in the hole.

If possible, flag off the hole or place a safety marker over it.

A dye test will either confirm or remove the suspicion of a sewer break.

WHAT DOES A POSITIVE DYE TEST MEAN?

This is an indication that the sewer has a leak or break. Sewer damage must be repaired to end the rodent problem and prevent further sanitation problems including blockage.

WHAT DOES A NEGATIVE DYE TEST MEAN?

A negative dye test indicates that there is not a break in the sewer line. However, it doesn't always mean the sewer is problem free.

THE RESULTS ARE IN...

DYE TEST NEGATIVE?

The property owner should fill in the hole to prevent any rodent activity.

DYE TEST POSITIVE?

There is a leak or break in the sewer line. The City of Portland – Bureau of Maintenance will refer the problem to the Office of Neighborhood Involvement – Residential Inspections.

NOW WHAT HAPPENS?

Residential Inspections does a site inspection and checks plumbing records to determine the extent and location of the sanitation problem. Residential Inspections notifies the owner of the problem and what steps need to be taken.

SEWER REPAIR QUESTIONS

Property owners may call one of the city government telephone numbers located on the back of this brochure with any sewer related questions.