



CITY OF DURHAM
Department of Water Management
101 CITY HALL PLAZA
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News Release

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Sanitary Sewer Cleaning Begins in Downtown Durham August 7

Customers in Work Areas Advised to Close Toilet Lids During Process

DURHAM, N.C. —Routine cleaning and inspections of a segment of the City’s sanitary sewer system will require temporary lane changes in the American Tobacco district. This work begins the week of August 7, and is expected to continue for approximately two months.

A component of this project involves jetting of sewer lines. Jetting is a cleaning method that uses pressurized water sprayed through specialized hoses. This process can cause excess air pressure to escape via inadequately vented plumbing fixtures, resulting in splashed water and foul odors. This occurrence is known as “blow back;” therefore, Water Management customers are advised to keep toilet lids closed during this time. Additional project work will include closed-circuit television (CCTV) inspections of pipes; removing jetted debris from and inspecting manholes; non-toxic dye testing to verify active sewer services; non-toxic smoke testing of existing sewer infrastructure (plumes of white smoke escaping from manholes, drains, and other structures will be visible – this is normal and expected). Door hangers will be distributed by the City’s contractor, Hydrostructures, seven days in advance of any smoke testing.

As part of the work, planned lane closures will occur during the week of August 7 at the following:

- West Peabody Street, Gregson Street between West Main and Chapel Hill streets, Memorial Street, Burch Avenue, Duke Street between Chapel Hill and Memorial streets, Chapel Hill Street between William Vickers Avenue and Ramseur Street, William Vickers Avenue, and Jackson Street.

A map and additional project information is available online at www.durhamwaterprojects.org. Periodic work updates will also be posted on the department’s social media channels.

About the Department of Water Management

The Department of Water Management is responsible for the operation and maintenance of Durham's water supply, water treatment and water reclamation (wastewater treatment) facilities, the collection and distribution systems (including meter reading), and customer billing services. The department has a wide variety of support divisions and programs to maintain the existing infrastructure that provide these integral services, and strives to be a responsible steward of the City's physical assets. For information, visit <http://durhamnc.gov/944/>, like [Durham Saves Water](#) on Facebook, and follow [@DurhamWater](#) on Twitter.

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