VACUUM TESTING

Equipment needed: Vacuum pump, 25ft clear PVC vacuum hose, 32inch plate testing head (bladder style optional) and dead end pipe plugs

Procedure: Dead end plugs will be needed to plug off each pipe opening coming into the manhole. Use only poly-lift lines or extension hoses to inflate plugs from the top. Place the plate on top of the manhole. Attach the clear vacuum hose to the plate and vacuum pump, open valve and start engine. Pull a vacuum of 10 inches of mercury then close valve and shut off engine. Test should be for 1 minute with up to 1 inch of mercury drop allowed to pass. After test, remove hose from plate, open valve to release vacuum from manhole, then pull plate off. DO NOT ENTER MANHOLE! Deflate plugs from top of manhole and pull out.
(CAUTION: DEEP HOLES MAY TAKE LONGER TO REPLENISH BREATHEABLE AIR, DO NOT RUSH INTO A MANHOLE AFTER A VACUUM TEST)

If test fails, use Hudson sprayer with 2 and a half gallons of dishwashing soap and water mixture to spray manhole with soapy water and re-test. When you pull plate off at the end of this test, leaks will be where bubbles have formed.

- Plate Style -
  Seals frame or top of cone. Works great if manhole is exposed or before backfilled.

- Bladder Style -
  Seals inside the frame and above or below grading rings. Works well on both existing and newly installed manholes.