INSIGHTS

INFRATECH SOLUTIONS

Manhole/Pole Cameras



Why should a wastewater utility own a manhole/pole camera?

- Immediate access to inspections — Utility crews can inspect manholes, wet wells, and other structures whenever needed without waiting for a contractor.
- Faster troubleshooting — Quickly identify blockages, debris, infiltration, structural problems, and other issues before deciding on a repair strategy.
- Lower inspection costs — Reduce recurring contractor costs and mobilization charges for routine or emergency inspections.
- Improved emergency response — Have the equipment available 24/7 to investigate backups, overflows, and other urgent wastewater problems.
- Better maintenance decisions — Visual information helps crews determine whether cleaning, repair, rehabilitation, or replacement is actually necessary.
- Documented condition assessment — Capture photos and video to create a visual record of manhole and pipe conditions.
- Track deterioration over time — Repeat inspections allow the utility to compare conditions and identify assets that are deteriorating.
- Prioritize capital improvements — Inspection information can help utilities rank projects based on actual field conditions rather than assumptions.

INSIGHTS

- Improve crew productivity — A pole camera can allow a crew to inspect difficult-to-access areas without immediately deploying additional equipment or personnel.
- Reduce unnecessary confined-space entries — Remote visual inspection can provide valuable information before personnel enter a manhole, improving planning and safety.
- Verify contractor work — Inspect structures before and after cleaning, repair, rehabilitation, or construction to confirm the work was completed properly.
- Support regulatory and maintenance records — Video documentation provides useful supporting evidence for asset-management, maintenance, and inspection records.
- Train and educate employees — Real inspection footage can be used to train new employees to recognize common wastewater system problems.
- Enhance asset management — Build a visual database of the wastewater collection system that can be referenced during future maintenance and planning.
- Payback through repeated use — Unlike a one-time contractor inspection, an owned camera can be used across hundreds or thousands of inspections over its service life.
- Greater operational independence — The utility controls when inspections occur rather than depending on contractor availability.

Bottom line: A manhole/pole camera gives a wastewater utility a relatively low-cost way to see problems sooner, make better maintenance decisions, document asset conditions, and reduce reliance on outside inspection services.