

Planning a Vacation?

If you will be away for more than a week, take the following three steps before you leave:

- 1) Run water from an inside tap long enough for the grinder pump to start working.
- 2) When the pump starts, turn the water off.
- 3) The grinder pump will run until the tank is empty and will then shut off. This process will cleanse the pump and leave it filled with a minimum of clean water.

Maintenance & Repair

***Your pump needs electricity to operate!
If you lose power, restrict your water
use until power has been restored.***

Our 24-Hour Emergency Dispatcher will arrange for service/maintenance of County-owned systems at no charge. If the grinder pump is privately maintained, you must contact a plumber or the supplier of the pump,



Freemire & Associates, at 410-768-8500.

If your home was built less than two years ago, check with the builder or the builder's representative to see if the pump is still under warranty.

Anne Arundel County

Department of Public Works

2662 Riva Road, Annapolis, MD 21404

Website: www.aacounty.org

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FOR ASSISTANCE

General DPW Information

410-222-7500

DPW Customer Relations

410-222-7582

E-mail: pwcustoo@aacounty.org

Billing Information

410-222-1144

24-Hour Emergency Service

410-222-8400

Never attempt to open a tank cover or the electric panel box. Electrical shock or damage may occur.



DPW & YOU

Making a difference, together



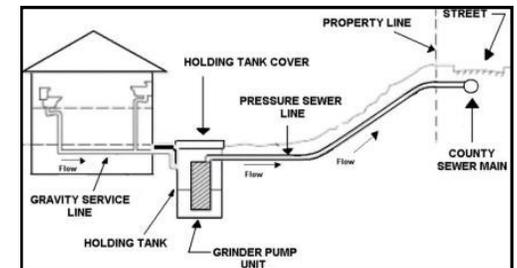
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GRINDER PUMP GUIDE



Your grinder pump is a “pressure system,” and is part of the larger County sewerage collection system.

Grinder pumps are powered by electricity and used in areas where sewage can not flow downhill via gravity. A grinder pump grinds sewage from your home—much like a garbage disposal—and then pushes it out through hundreds of miles of pipes to the Reclamation Facilities maintained by DPW.

Some grinder pumps are owned and maintained by the County; others, by the homeowner. Either way, it is important for you to take an active role in the safe operation, maintenance, and repair of your system so that your grinder pump will provide years of safe, reliable service.

How It Works

A fiberglass or high density polyethylene sewage holding tank is installed underground on your property and a sewage grinder pump is housed inside the tank. County-owned grinder pumps are placed in a 7 1/2 -foot utility easement to provide access for service. Only the round tank cover is visible.

Electrical power and alarm wires are located underground between the control panel and the tank. Do not dig in this area for safety reasons. Electricity charges, estimated at less than \$1.00 a month, are paid on your monthly electric bill.

When the tank fills to a preset level, the grinder pump automatically turns on, grinds the waste, and forces it out of the tank and into the sewer line. The pump will normally run for 1-2 minutes and then automatically turn off when the tank has been emptied. It's programmed to operate in cycles, rather than continuously. Cycles are determined by the amount of water used; generally, a cycle begins when about 20 gallons has entered the tank. A grinder pump will usually turn on and off about 20-30 times daily.

Protect Your Pump

A grinder pump can normally handle any wastewater discharged to the sewer from the kitchen, bathroom, or laundry. But, some chemicals and materials may cause operating problems or present safety hazards. Check the labels on all chemicals before disposing of them. And, never connect a sump pump or roof drain to a grinder pump.

To prevent clogging your system or the County's, NEVER put any of the following into sinks, toilets, or drains:

- Glass, metal, wood, seafood shells
- Diapers, disinfecting wipes, paper towels, baby wipes, towelettes, mop refills, socks, rags, cloth
- Plastic objects (toys, eating utensils)
- Any strong chemical, toxic, caustic, or poisonous substance
- Degreasing solvents, gasoline, kerosene, fuel oil, paint thinner, anti-freeze
- Lubricating oil or grease
- Cooking fat (lard, oil or grease)
- Hair clippings, coffee grounds, egg shells

In addition, some grinder pumps have a small vent just below the cover that must be kept free of debris such as grass and mulch to ensure safe operation.

If the Alarm Sounds

Your grinder pump includes an alarm in case of failure. A pump may fail for several reasons, such as power supply breaker tripping, loss of power, force main break, or a sensor-related malfunction. If the pump fails, it will fill with water. If this happens:

- Stop using water to prevent overflows.
- Turn the alarm off by depressing the alarm light on the front of the alarm box. The alarm should stop, but the light will stay on.
- Using a lot of water at once can cause the alarm to sound; this situation corrects itself after about 15 minutes. If the pump is operating correctly, the water will automatically be pumped down and the light will go off.
- If the alarm light is still on after 15 minutes, call 24-hour **Emergency Services at 410-222-8400** to learn if your system is privately maintained or owned by the County.

Note: The County is not responsible for damage to items placed within the easement when performing maintenance/service.