

If the Alarm Sounds

If there is a grinder pump failure, the tank which contains the pump will become too full. An alarm horn and light located in the alarm box on the outside of your house will automatically turn on. You should...

- Discontinue water use to prevent overflows
- Turn off the alarm by depressing the button on the underside of the alarm box. The alarm horn should silence, but the light will remain on until the grinder pump is repaired.
- Wait fifteen minutes before taking further action. A high level of water usage will sometimes cause the alarm to come on. This situation is self-correcting. If the pump is operating correctly, the wet well will automatically be pumped down and the alarm light will turn off.
- If the alarm light is still on after fifteen minutes, call your installer or a plumber for assistance or troubleshooting.



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REGIONAL DISTRICT
of Fraser-Fort George

**Environmental
Services**



**Grinder
Pumps for
Community
Sewer
Systems**

If you are part of the Bendixon, Buckhorn, or West Lake Community Sewer System, your home is one served by a low pressure system, which uses a grinder pump to grind the sewage from your home and push the sewage through small diameter plastic pipes to the large mainline. The mainline then transports the sewage to the community lagoons.

Low pressure sewage systems are economical solutions for areas of the Regional District, which cannot be served by gravity lines. However, a grinder pump system does require that the homeowners take a more active role in ensuring proper usage of the pump system.

Nuts and Bolts: Technical Details

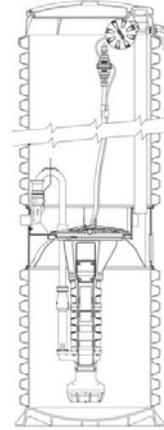


A high density polyethylene sewage holding tank is installed underground and holds the sewage grinder pump. The round tank cover is the only part that shows above the ground. All of the wastewater from your home flows into the buried tank. When the tank fills to a pre-set level, the grinder pump automatically turns on, grinds the waste, and forces it out of the tank and into the sewage system.

The grinder pump normally will run for one or two minutes and will automatically turn off when the tank has been emptied. The pump is programmed to operate in cycles, rather than continuously. Cycles are determined by the amount of water used, usually after twenty gallons has entered the tank. During a usual day, the grinder pump will turn on and off to empty the tank 20 to 30 times.

Protect Your Pump

The grinder pump can handle any wastewater that is normally discharged to the sewer from the kitchen, bathroom or laundry. Some chemicals and materials may cause operating problems or safety hazards. It is advisable to check labels on chemicals prior to their disposal. Never connect a sump pump to the grinder pump.



CAUTION: Never put any of the following materials into sinks, toilets or drains:

- Glass, metal, wood, seafood shells
- Papers, socks, rags or cloth of any kind
- Plastic objects (toys, eating utensils, etc.)
- Any strong chemical, toxic, caustic, or poisonous substance
- Degreasing solvents
- Any explosive or flammable material
- Gasoline, kerosene, fuel oil, paint thinner, and anti-freeze
- Lubricating oil or grease
- Cooking fat (lard, oil, grease)
- Hair clippings
- Coffee Beans
- Egg Shells
- Diapers, sanitary napkins, tampons or condoms
- Abrasives such as cat litter, sand, or aquarium stones

These materials may clog your home system or create unsafe conditions in your lines and tank.

In Case of Power Failure

If there is a power failure which affects your home, your grinder pump will also experience a loss of power and not be able to operate. The grinder pump tank has a certain amount of holding capacity, but interior water use should be severely limited until power has been restored.



While on Vacation

If you have been away from home for more than seven days, the following steps should be taken to minimize any stagnating odors.

First, run water from an inside tap long enough for the grinder pump to begin working.

After the pump turns on, turn the water off. The grinder pump will run until the tank is empty and will shut off. This process will cleanse the pump and leave it filled with a minimum of clean water.

Always leave the electrical power on. This allows the heating element inside the pump to operate which helps eliminate condensation and freezing.