

# Water ReSource Sales & Service

*Protecting our watershed*



Water ReSource Sales & Service, LLC  
P.O. Box 71 Sparta, New Jersey 07871  
93 Stickles Pond Road, Newton N J, 07860  
Voice 973-300-0036 Fax 973-300-3231  
Service 877-WRT-PUMP  
Swr55pmp@aol.com  
Cell 973-903-6194

## **Homeowner's Guide to Grinder Pumps**

### **Grinder Pumps Support Sewer Systems**

The low pressure sewage system servicing your home is now part of the larger Lake Hopatcong, New Jersey sewage collection system.

The grinder pump in your yard is an important part of the system. Lake Hopatcong uses several types of collection systems. Each has been designed to best service the customer in a particular area. Topography, the physical features of the earth, plays an important role in design selection. In areas where sewage cannot flow downhill by gravity, pumps are used to force sewage through the lines to the treatment facility. If you have a grinder pump, your home is one served by a pressure system, which uses a grinder pump to grind the sewage from your home (much like the garbage disposal in your kitchen) and pump the sewage through small plastic pipes to the larger lines in the street.

Low pressure sewage systems are economical solutions for areas of the Township which cannot be served by gravity lines. A grinder pump system does require the homeowner to take a more active role than that required for a property served by gravity. It is important that you know how your home sewer system operates and that you notify the Lake Hopatcong Sewer Authority if a problem occurs. If the unit servicing your home is owned by the County, their technicians can provide maintenance and service at no additional cost to you. If it is a privately maintained system, you must contact the supplier of the pump, Water ReSource Sales & Service, at 1-877-WRT-PUMP to resolve the problem.

It is not advisable to plant flowers or shrubs or place items such as fences, decorative pilings, fishponds, etc. near the grinder pump as damage to the grinder pump, underground electrical wires or piping system may occur. The Township will not be

responsible for any damage to landscaping or items placed within the easement while performing any maintenance function. Electric power and alarm wires are buried under the ground between the control panel and the tank. Before digging in the area, call to have a technician locate the line.

Grinder pumps have a small breather vent located on the side of the tank, just below the cover. It is important to keep this vent open and free from debris, such as grass, for the unit to remain operational. It is also important to have the ground sloped away from the tank so water will not pool and enter the vent, potentially hindering proper operation of the pump. If your home is less than a year old, your grinder pump is still under warranty through your builder. Any problems you experience with the grinder pump system during this period should be referred to the builder or his representative. With your cooperation, your low pressure system will provide many years of safe, reliable service. Please take a few moments to read the following information to insure the proper functions of your pump.

#### **If the High Level Alarm Sounds...**

If there is a grinder pump failure, the tank which contains the pump will become too full. An alarm buzzer and light located in the alarm disconnect panel on the outside of your home will automatically turn on. You should:

- Discontinue water use to prevent overflows.
- Turn off the alarm by depressing the alarm silence switch on the outside of the alarm disconnect panel.
- 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 the alarm light will turn off.
- If the alarm light is still on after fifteen minutes, call our 24-hour emergency dispatcher at 1-877-WRT-PUMP.
- Never attempt to open the tank cover or the electrical panel box, as electrical shock or damage to the system may occur.

#### **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 the 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
- 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 or antifreeze
- Lubricating oil or grease
- Cooking fat (lard, oil, grease)

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

### **Nuts and Bolts: Technical Details**

A high density polyethylene sewage holding tank has been installed underground on your property and a sewage grinder pump is housed in the tank. The tank cover is round and is the only part that shows above ground. All of the wastewater from your home flows into the buried tank. When the tank fills to a certain 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. The grinder pump is powered by electricity and is connected to the electric service at or near a panel box near your electric meter on the outside wall of your home. However, some are located on a panel inside the home. Grinder pump electricity charges are estimated to be less than a dollar per month and are included on your monthly electric bill.

### **In Case of Power Failure**

If there is a power failure that 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 are going to be away from home for more than seven days, the following steps should be taken to minimize 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.

### **Maintenance**

Environment One grinder pumps require no periodic maintenance, adjustment or lubrication.

**Owner Initiated Shutdown**

The alarm disconnect panel has one double pole circuit for power supply to the grinder pump. To shut the grinder pump down, place the double pole circuit breaker into the off position.

