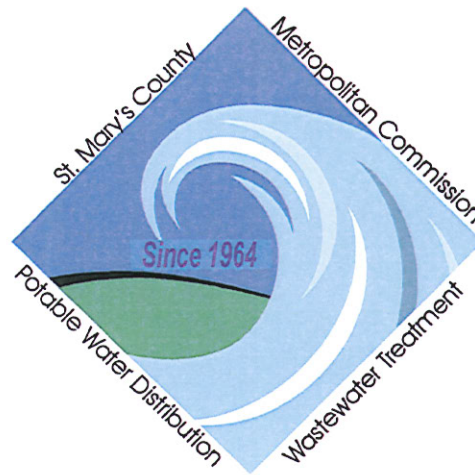


Special Conditions

Keep the grinder pump vault lid, control panel and drain lines free of trees, landscaping, flower pots, etc..... to allow easy access for personnel to perform preventive and emergency maintenance



www.metcom.org

St. Mary's County
Metropolitan
Commission
43990 Commerce Ave
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Phone: (301) 373-4733

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24-Hour Service Line:

(301) 373-5305

St. Mary's County
Metropolitan
Commission

Homeowner's Guide to Wastewater Grinder Pumps

- Operations
- Maintenance
- Repair
- Safety Precautions

**24 Hr Service Line:
(301) 373-5305**

Power Failures

If there is a power failure that affects your home, your grinder pump will also experience a loss of power and will not operate. In this case, severely limit interior water usage until power is restored due to limited capacity in the grinder pump basin.

GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT GRINDER PUMPS

In order to provide you with suitable wastewater disposal, your home is served by a low pressure sewer system. The primary component in this system is the grinder pump, which consists of an underground tank and pump vault located on your property. In most cases, the only parts of the grinder pump system above ground are the grinder pump vault lid, sewer drain access caps, and depending on the pump model, a vent assembly. Wastewater generated from your house is transferred to the wet well of the unit by gravity through the sewer drain pipe connected to your house. As the wet well collects the wastewater from the house, the grinder pump will automatically activate. Any solids encountered will be finely ground and pumped with the liquid as slurry. The grinder pump generates sufficient pressure to force the slurry through the piping and mains to the wastewater collection or treatment facility.

USE AND CARE OF THE GRINDER PUMP

When properly installed and not abused, the grinder pump will give years of trouble-free service. Damage to the exterior enclosure allowing the internal components to become exposed to the weather is extremely harmful to the unit and should be reported immediately. Additionally, any surface water noted entering the unit through the vent assembly, grinder pump lid or sewer line access cap should also be reported.

CAUTION

The manufacturer and regulatory agencies advise that the following items, although capable of being ground and pumped by the grinder pump unit, should never be introduced into the sewers either directly or through a kitchen food waste disposal unit:

- Glass, Metal, and Wood
- Plastic Objects
- Cloth Products, Such as Diapers, Rags, Disposable Wipes and Reinforced or Heavy Duty Paper Towels
- Feminine or Personal Hygiene Products
- Cigarette Butts
- Seafood Shells
- Cooking Oils and Greases

In addition, it shall be a **CRIMINAL OFFENSE** to introduce into the sewer any of the following:

- Explosives
- Gasoline or Other Flammable Liquids
- Lubricating Oils or Greases
- Strong Chemicals

VISUAL / AUDIBLE ALARMS

If there is a grinder pump failure, the vault that contains the pump will become too full and the red emergency notification light and/or the audible alarm will activate. If at any time you notice liquid on the ground around the basin lid, this is also an indication of a system malfunction.

If you experience any grinder pump related system malfunction, severely limit your interior water use and immediately call our **24-Hour emergency line at (301) 373-5305 prior to calling a plumber.**

Never attempt to open the basin cover or the electrical panel box.

To prevent damage to the grinder pump, never turn off the circuit breaker for the grinder pump in your house as a means to silence the alarm.

PERIODS OF DISUSE

In the event your house is to be unoccupied for longer than a few weeks, the following procedure should be followed:

Run clear water long enough to allow the pump to activate. Turn water off and allow the unit to pump down and cut off. This purges the system and leaves a minimum of clear water in the wet well.

Leave electrical power to unit "ON". There is a small heating element inside of the pump to prevent the buildup of condensation which