

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

4. you want to INITIATE A SHUTDOWN: contact the Grass Island Wastewater Treatment Plant before shutting down. If the situation is urgent and a shutdown is necessary, please shut the breaker in the house and immediately call the Grass Island WWTP at (203)622-0963.

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 the chemicals prior to disposal. Never connect a sump pump to the grinder pump. Never put any of the following materials into sinks, toilets or drains:

- Glass, metal, wood, seafood shells, aquarium rocks/gravel;
- Plastic objects (toys, eating utensils, etc.);
- Any strong chemical, toxic, caustic, or poisonous substance;
- Degreasing solvents, lubricating oil or grease, cooking fat (lard, oil, grease);
- Any explosive or flammable materials;
- Gasoline, kerosene, fuel oil, paint thinner, antifreeze;
- Rubber or other disposable gloves;

- Sanitary wipes (e.g. baby wipes), disposable floor wipes, disposable toilet bowl scrubbers, sanitary napkins or tampons.

These materials may clog your home system or cause pump failure.

HOMEOWNER'S GUIDE TO TOWN-OWNED GRINDER PUMPS (MILBROOK AND NORTH MIANUS AREAS)



*Town of Greenwich
Sewer Division*

Town of Greenwich
DPW Sewer Division
101 Field Point Road
Greenwich, CT 06836
Phone (203)622-7760

Grass Island Wastewater
Treatment Plant
Shore Road – Grass Island
Greenwich, CT 06836
Phone (203)622-0963

KEY THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT YOUR TOWN-OWNED GRINDER PUMP (MILBROOK AND NORTH MIANUS AREAS)

1. WHAT it is: the key to a low-pressure sewer system is an Environment One Grinder Pump; a low-pressure sewer acts like a water system in reverse. The Town provides each home with a pump which propels effluent through a pipe in the street. First, effluent from each house is collected in tanks, solid materials are then ground to a size suitable for pumping as a slurry with effluent water. The pump generates sufficient pressure to pump the slurry from your house to a wastewater receiving line.

2. HOW to be cautious: do not plant flowers or shrubs, or place items such as fences, decorative pilings, fishponds, etc. Doing otherwise may result in damage to the grinder pump, underground electrical or the piping system. Grinder pumps have a small breather vent located on the side of the tank that should be kept open and free from debris to achieve optimal results. It is important to have the ground sloped away from the tank so water will not pool and enter the vent, preventing operation procedures.

3. WHO is responsible:

- Homeowners – please maintain access to the pump control box and the

pump chamber. Please note that the Town shall not be held accountable for any damage to landscaping while performing any maintenance function.

- The Town Sewer Division – if your pump fails, the Town Sewer Division will replace it. However, the Town Sewer Division will not be responsible for clogged laterals; it is the homeowner's responsibility. Do not call your plumber or electrician if pump failure occurs. Instead, call the number provided below.

- Please be reminded, if you are planning to do any work on your property that may impact the pump and/or controls (including but not limited to grade changes, etc.), please contact the Sewer Division for guidance prior to doing the work. Failure to do so could result in operation and maintenance issues and ultimately preclude your property from the Town's service program.

CAUTION! What to do in case...

1. the ALARM SOUNDS: an alarm horn and light will automatically turn on when the tank which contains the pump has become too full. You should:

- Discontinue water use to prevent overflows;
- Turn off alarm by depressing the alarm silence switch on the outside of the alarm disconnect panel. The alarm horn should be silenced, but light will remain on until pump is repaired;
- Wait 15 minutes. A high level of water usage will sometimes cause alarm

to come on. This situation is self-correcting. If pump is operating correctly, it will pump the level down and the alarm will turn off;

- If alarm light is still on after 15 minutes, contact the Grass Island Wastewater Treatment Plant at (203)622-0963 and follow recorded instructions for a "sewer emergency." Town Sewer Division Staff will respond as quickly as possible;

- Never attempt to open the tank cover or the electrical panel box. **WARNING:** electrical shock or damage to the system may occur.

2. of a POWER ISSUE: if there is a power failure which affects your home, your grinder pump will also experience a loss of power and will not be able to operate. Be aware that the grinder pump tank has a certain amount of holding capacity – therefore, please limit your interior water use until power has been restored.

3. you're on VACATION: if you are away for more than 7 days, the following steps will minimize the potential for any stagnating odors:

- First, run water from an inside tap long enough for the grinder pump to begin working;
- Turn off the water once the pump turns on. The grinder pump will run until the tank is empty and will shut off – this process cleanses the pump and leaves it filled with a minimum amount of clean water;