

Grinder Pump Electrical Requirements for Generators

Environmental One: Under full load, 240 volts, 8 amps
Hyrdomatic: Under full load, 240 volts, 15 amps.

Questions?
If you have any questions about your grinder pump, please contact James Whitney, Sewer Superintendent at (425) 392-6256 extension 219, or email him at james.whitney@sammplat.wa.org.

Take a minute to find the location of your grinder pump. It is generally buried underground in a container, with a lid showing above the ground. Look for the grinder pump lid (see pictures below.) Please keep the area around your grinder pump lid clear at all times to provide access for maintenance.



Environmental One grinder pump system



Hydromatic grinder pump system

What are your responsibilities to ensure efficient operation of your grinder pump?

Maintain access to the pump control box and the pump chamber and make sure there are no landscape plantings obstructing access.

Never put any of the following materials into sinks, toilets or drains. These materials may clog your system, cause sewer backups into your home or cause pump failure:

- Cooking fat, lard, oil or grease
- Degreasing solvents
- Cigarette butts
- Dental floss
- Sanitary napkins, tampons, or diapers
- Q-Tips
- Sanitary wipes such as baby wipes, disposable floor wipes, or disposable floor scrubbers
- Hair clippings
- Cat litter
- Strong chemical, toxic, caustic, or poisonous substances
- Flammable material such as gasoline, kerosene, fuel oil, or paint thinner
- Glass, metal, wood, eggshells, seafood shells, aquarium rocks or gravel
- Plastic objects such as toys or eating utensils
- Rubber gloves or other disposable gloves
- Fireplace ashes

Your system will function better if it is not overloaded, so practice water conservation all year long. Please contact the District for brochures that contain useful water conservation tips. Not only will you keep your grinder pump running smoothly, but you may also lower your water and sewer bills!

Information about your WASTEWATER GRINDER PUMP SYSTEM



What you need to know about your

WASTEWATER GRINDER PUMP SYSTEM



The Sammamish Plateau Water and Sewer District has identified you as a sewer customer who uses a grinder pump system. This brochure will provide you with information about your grinder pump system, the District's role associated with maintenance of your system, and your responsibilities to ensure smooth operation of your system.

Why do I need to use a grinder pump system?

Wastewater normally flows downhill by gravity through the sewer system. However, gravity service is not available to your property. Your residence may be at a lower elevation than the sewer mains, thereby requiring the use of a pump to force the wastewater up to the gravity sewer main. The District's standard pump for this situation is a grinder pump.

How does a grinder pump work?

Wastewater from your home flows down your drains and collects in a holding tank. When the wastewater in the tank reaches a certain level, it automatically activates the pump to grind up your sewage into small particles, much like a garbage disposal. The pump then generates enough pressure to push the wastewater up the hill through your sewer line to the sewer main. The grinder pump system has an alarm to alert you if there are any problems with the system operation.

Who is responsible for maintenance of my grinder pump?

The District owns and maintains the grinder pumps within its service territory. The District currently maintains grinder pumps at more than 430 residences within our service area.

District staff perform annual inspections and carry out preventative maintenance of the grinder pumps to ensure proper operation of your system. For additional information, please refer to your "Grinder Pump Service Agreement." The Service Agreement outlines the terms and conditions associated with your responsibilities for grinder pump usage, as well as the District's maintenance responsibilities. The Service Agreement was signed and recorded against your property when the grinder pump system was initially installed. If you purchased your property with the grinder pump system already in place, you should have received a copy as part of your property title information. *If you can not find a copy of the Service Agreement, you may request a copy from the District.*



During the annual maintenance visit, a District team member will inspect and clean your grinder pump.

What should I do if my grinder pump alarm goes off?

If there is too much flow going into your grinder pump unit, the high sewage level will automatically trigger an alarm horn and light to alert you of the problem. In many instances, the problem could be an excessive amount of flow to the grinder pump. You should immediately discontinue your water

use to prevent an overflow and call the District to report the problem. The District has a person on call 24 hours a day to respond to these situations. The District's phone number is 425-392-6256, and the number is also listed on the outside of your grinder pump control panel.

There is no additional charge for District response to alarm calls, as long as you have not improperly used the grinder pump system. For your safety, never attempt to open the control panel or the grinder pump tank or have it serviced by an outside contractor. A \$100 fine will be assessed to your account for tampering with the grinder pump system or control panel.

What should I do if the power goes out at my home?

During a power outage, your grinder pump will not function. It is best to limit any water use during a power outage, since your holding tank has a limited capacity. If the system was already full and ready to pump just before the power went out, there will be even less storage available. Running any additional



A District team member will test your grinder pump controller annually to ensure that the alarm functions properly.

water or flushing toilets when the pump cannot operate may cause sewage to back up into your home.

Many of our customers use generators during a power outage. **Before purchasing and using any generator for your grinder pump system, always consult a licensed electrician!** Your electrician can determine the size of generator needed to run all necessary items such as your furnace, refrigerators and freezers, in addition to your grinder pump. If you wish to connect the generator directly to the house wiring to power appliances, your electrician will install the proper equipment in accordance with local electrical codes. The electrician will also install an appropriate power transfer switch, which can help prevent death and injury to utility workers and your neighbors. You may also be liable for any property damage that occurs during the improper use of a generator.

Your electrician will need to know the electrical needs of your grinder pump before making recommendations of which size generator is needed. First, identify which of the two models of grinder pump you are using. You can then provide your electrician with the electrical demand information provided in this brochure to operate a grinder pump system. If you are not sure which model is installed at your house, please contact the District Office.

Questions?

If you have any questions about your grinder pump, please contact James Whitney, Field Team Supervisor, at (425) 392-6256 extension 219, or email him at james.whitney@sammplat.wa.org.