

Care and Feeding of your GRINDER PUMP

It's a topic not usually brought up at parties...unless you are an Augusta Shore Resident. I'm sure many have heard stories about grinder pump issues from one neighbor or another. I know I have one. Here are the basics of grinder pump science. No longer are we in the simple days of the plumbers credo - "Stuff flows down hill and payday's on Friday". Our systems are a bit more complex, using grinders and pumps to macerate, pressurize and force the liquids and semisolids up and down our hills until they reach the wastewater treatment facility located below the main dam. For some, that is nearly two miles away.

Here are some facts/tips about our grinder pump systems:

- All drains and toilets feed into a 70-gallon tank buried in your yard using conventional gravity plumbing systems (i.e. a 4" PVC pipe). A grinder/pump within the 70-gallon tank macerates the solids and effluents and pumps that into the main sewer line located along the street through a 1¼" or 1½" line.
- When your power goes out, you are no longer able to pump waste out of the tank. Therefore you only have about one quick shower or 10-15 flushes (not both) before you flood your yard or basement. The homeowner is responsible for the care and maintenance of the grinder pump and the buried discharge line all the way up to the shutoff valve located at the street connecting it to the main line.
- All of the street lines discharge into the wastewater treatment facility. The street lines and wastewater treatment facility are owned and maintained by Duckett Creek.
- Grinder pumps are susceptible to damage by items such as kitty litter, fish tank gravel and seafood shells. Please avoid sending items like these down the drain as they may cause a failure. Nylon rope, cloth and plastic strands also wreak havoc with grinder systems.
- The grinder pump mechanism can be replaced within 30 minutes and does not require your yard to be dug up. Remove the cover, uncouple the electric connector, move the release lever and lift the unit out with the supplied rope.

Augusta Shores carries a spare loaner grinder pump mechanism and Circuit board assembly. These are available in the event of an emergency (You know, a New Years Eve party, 60 guests and your grinder fails). You are responsible for installation, and subsequent replacement or return the mechanism as soon as possible in the condition it was taken. Please contact a board member in the event the loaner pump is needed.

These systems are not unique and are very reliable. Many developments like ours use pressurized waste systems. Hope this helps... *Stan*