

Grinder Pump

Frequently Asked Questions

What is a grinder pump?

A grinder pump is a pumping unit consisting of a pump and small pipe from the unit to the sewer system. Installed outside of your home, grinder pumps are used to discharge wastewater from your home to the sewer system in the street or right-of-way.

When is a grinder pump installed instead of a traditional sewer lateral?

A grinder pump is needed when conventional gravity sewers and/or laterals cannot be used to service an area or property, often due to the topography of the area. Typically, they are needed when a home is lower than the street and/or further away from the sewers. They are also required when a low pressure sewer system is constructed instead of a gravity sewer system.

Why does my property need a grinder pump when my neighbor's property can be served by gravity sewers?

Your home may either sit lower than your neighbor's, or further away from the gravity sewer in the street and could not be served by a gravity sewer/lateral. Each home is evaluated on an individual basis.

How much does it cost to install a grinder pump

The average cost for installing the grinder pump is approximately \$4,000-\$5,000, but varies per property. The cost for electricity to the grinder pump is similar to that of a 40-watt light bulb, which is about \$15 to \$20 per year. This is in addition to the connection fee of \$2,530.

Does a grinder pump need regular maintenance or need to be pumped out, like my septic system?

Septic systems need to be pumped because they are tanks and need to periodically have the contents removed. Grinder pumps do not need to be pumped out because they pump out the wastewater once the contents reach a certain level. Grinder pumps average eight years between service calls, so minimal regular maintenance is required when operated under normal conditions.

What happens during a power failure?

If the power goes out, the grinder pump and its alarm system will not work because they both require electricity. However, the pump unit does have storage capacity.

During power outages, the two largest producers of wastewater (dishwater and washing machine) are not in use; therefore, your water usage decreases. Because the length of the power outage cannot be planned, you should conserve water to the best of your ability.

How big is the grinder pump, and what does it look like?

There will only be two parts of the pump above the ground: the alarm panel and lid. The alarm panel is enclosed in a small weatherproof box so that it can be accessed easily. The grinder pump lid is about 26 inches in diameter and rises approximately 2 inches above the ground. The lid can be painted and/or hidden by plants.

My septic tank sometimes has an odor. Will the grinder pump also produce an odor?

No. When wastewater sits, as it does in a septic system, it becomes septic and produces a distinctive odor. Since the grinder pump will remove wastewater by pumping it into the sewer system, you should not notice any odor.



*Grinder Pump
(pre-installation)*



Surface View (post-installation)