

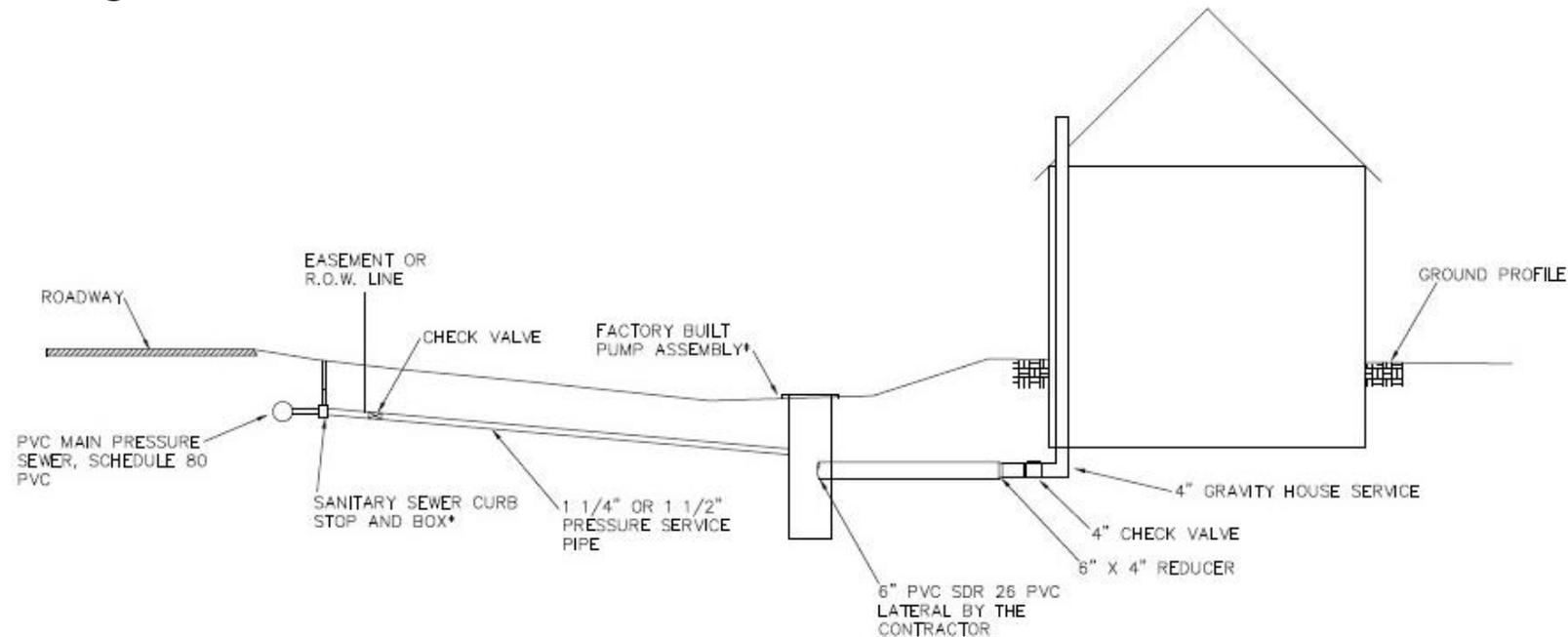


District 7 Argentine/ Deerfield Township

WHAT TO KNOW ABOUT YOUR GRINDER
STATION

How Does A Grinder Station Work

- ❖ All of the wastewater from your home flows by gravity into the tank. When the wastewater reaches a certain level, the pump turns on and sends the wastewater to the sewer main. As the station is pumping, it draws through a grinding mechanism, turning the waste into a slurry.
- ❖ In District 7/Argentine & Deerfield Townships the majority of stations are connected to at least 2 homes.
- ❖ Power for the station is on the same electrical grid as your home. No power at your home, means no power at your station as they do not have generators.



What To Do When The Alarm Goes Off at Your Station

- ❖ *On each station, there is a audible alarm and red light alarm that will sound if there is an issue with the station. We rely on you as the homeowner to report the station alarm, the station does not automatically notify WWS when an alarm is going off.*
- ❖ *If you see/hear the alarm, immediately call WWS- District 3 WRRF at 810-735-7135 to report.*
- ❖ *If you do not reach a person, follow the voicemail directions.*
- ❖ *Limit water use to prevent overflows or sewage backups, until a crew has determined the cause of the alarm and completed any repairs needed.*
- ❖ ***DO NOT** attempt to open the tank cover or the electrical panel box.*
- ❖ ***DO NOT** manually turn the alarm off without calling WWS first.*
- ❖ *If the alarm is ignored, it may result in a sanitary sewer backup into your home or the homes of your neighbors.*
- ❖ *Once reported, WWS will send a crew out to inspect your station and make any necessary repairs.*

How to Help Ensure Your Grinder Station Stays in Working Condition

- ❖ **DO NOT** connect troughs, storm drains or sump pumps into the wastewater system.
- ❖ **DO NOT** flush anything down your toilets, except toilet paper. Even wipes marketed as flushable can clog up your station or bind the pump as they do not breakdown, resulting in a sanitary sewer backup.
- ❖ **DO NOT** dump grease down the drain. Grease builds up in the station and piping. The grease gets caught in the pump causing it to stop working.
- ❖ **DO NOT** plant shrubs or trees over the station.
- ❖ **DO NOT** build fences, decks or sheds over your grinder station. Anything that prevents access if there is an issue could be damaged during repairs, cause injury to Water & Waste employees, or result in a sanitary sewer backup into your basement if crews have a difficult time gaining access to the station. In many cases, time is of the essence when an alarm is sounding.
- ❖ When doing any landscaping, digging, running heavy equipment, etc. call Miss Dig to stake the lines. Many stations have shutoff valves and clean-outs at ground surface that can damage the piping if ran over. Also check for an easement around the Grinder Station before doing any work.

Why Can't I Have My Sump Pump Connected To The System?

- ❖ It's just water? That's what many think when they ask how a sump pump would cause any issue with a grinder station.
- ❖ During a storm event, with potential power outages, the excess water from the sump pumps will flood the system
- ❖ Excess water from the sump pump results in the pump running more, which in turn results in electrical rates increasing, which is then passed on to you the customer.
- ❖ A sump pump line **MUST** be discharged outside of the house to the yard or drain way that will prevent the water from draining directly into the street.
- ❖ If you're a homeowner with a basement or crawl space, you're aware of the large amount of water your pump handles during a storm.
- ❖ Having a sump pump tied into the sanitary sewer violates the Genesee County Sewer Use Ordinance and Argentine Sewer Use Ordinance.

Why Can't I Have My Sump Pump Connected To The System? Cont.

- ❖ If your pump is discharging into the sewer, that's a sizeable amount of extra gallons pouring into your station in a short amount of time.
- ❖ Those thousands of extra gallons going into the system can quickly fill the District 7 Lagoon to over capacity and easily flood, putting partially treated sewer water into local streams and rivers, like the Shiawassee River.
- ❖ Another reason to keep clear water out of the sewer system: clear water that reaches the treatment plant is treated unnecessarily. When it is discharged into the system it increases the cost of treatment due to greater volumes of sewage to process. The cost of treatment is then passed onto you, the Customer.
- ❖ Per the Michigan Plumbing Code, Genesee County Sewer Use Ordinance (Article 2, Section 2.2) and the Argentine Township Sewer Use Ordinance, it is illegal to have sump pump connections directly or indirectly connected to the sanitary sewer.

Why Can't I Have My Sump Pump Connected To The System? Cont.

- ❖ If your sump is currently hooked up to the sewer, disconnect it.
- ❖ WWS Staff are available to assist you in determining if your sump is connected to the system via dye testing or visual inspection.
- ❖ If staff were to find your sump pump was connected to the sewer system. A time frame would be given to have it removed from the system.
- ❖ You can trace the pipe from your sump and ensure that it is discharging outside, and not connected to your sewer discharge pipe.

Power Outages

- ❖ A power outage at your home will generally mean a power outage at the pump station. If you and/or your neighbor(s) do not have power, the station will not have power.
- ❖ **Because the length of the outage is unknown, be sure to conserve water to the best of your ability. (Do not run dishwashers, washing machines, fill bath tubs/jacuzzies, etc.)**
- ❖ If you have a generator running for your home, remember the station does not.
- ❖ Alarms will NOT sound and the light will NOT flash during a power outage to alert you of a problem
- ❖ Remember that in most cases, there is more than 1 home connected to the station, and while you may be on higher ground than your neighbors, they may experience a sewage back up if wastewater is not conserved.
- ❖ During a power outage, WWS Supervisors assign up to 3 crews to manually pump down stations with generators. Generally the outages are isolated to specific areas, but occasionally a larger area is out of power.

What Can A Property Owner Do to Minimize Basement Sewer Backup

- ❖ Sanitary Sewer Backups in homes can be quite expensive and are often the responsibility of the homeowner, not WWS per Michigan Public Act 222.
- ❖ Consult with a plumber to review your plumbing system and correct any illegal plumbing connections.
- ❖ Consider the installation of backflow prevention measures, such as a check valve.
- ❖ Close off floor drains that tie into the sanitary sewer.
- ❖ Properly dispose of greases, paper products, etc.
- ❖ Limit water usage to a minimum or completely during a power outage, as the station WILL NOT work. Contact WWS with drainage problems.

If you have any questions regarding the Grinder Station, contact your Township office

WWS Fact Sheet

- ❖ 436 Grinder Stations in District 7
- ❖ 1372 homes are served by those grinder stations
- ❖ 290,000 gallons of District 7 wastewater treated per day
- ❖ 17 staff members at District 3 & 7, including administration staff



Toilets Are Not Trashcans



**Never flush the following items (or put down the garbage disposal or drain).
Toss them in the trash instead**

Baby/Facial/ Cleaning Wipes
Tampons
Sanitary Napkins
Medication
Hair
Dental Floss
Cotton Swabs/Balls
Bandages
Rags and Towels
Rubber Items (like latex gloves)
Fat, Cooking Oil, Grease



Clothing Labels
Candy/ Food Wrappers
Syringes
Cigarette Butts
Disposable Toilet Brushes
Kitty Litter
Aquarium Gravel
Plastic Items
Diapers
Fruit Stickers
Paper Towels



“Flushable” wipes do not break down. The resulting mess- like pictured above- clogs plumbing systems and blocks sewer lines.



TOILETS ARE NOT TRASHCANS™

visit www.nacwa.org/toilets

Only Flush the 3 P's: Pee, Poop, & Toilet Paper