

Grinder Pump - Fact Sheet

What is a grinder pump?

- A grinder pump grinds up wastewater (i.e. toilet, shower, washing machine, etc.) and pumps it into the public sewer system.

Why do I have a grinder pump?

- In most instances, wastewater flows by gravity from a private sewer service line to a public sewer main where it travels to LASA's wastewater treatment facility. However, because of elevation, gravity may not work in all instances. In situations where a home/business sewer service line leaves the building at a lower elevation than the sewer main, a grinder pump is sometimes used to grind and pump wastewater to the main.

What is not permissible to discharge to my grinder pump?

- Diapers, baby wipes, adult wipes, or shop rags
- Feminine products, sanitary napkins or tampons of any kind
- Cloth of any kind
- Glass or metal or plastic products of any kind
- Excessive amounts of oil and grease of any kind
- Lubricating oils
- Kitty litter
- Other large non-wastewater items such as toys
- Seafood shells
- Explosive or flammable materials, including but not limited to gasoline or kerosene
- Paint thinner, solvents, or antifreeze

What should I do with my grinder pump when I go on vacation?

If you plan on being away for several days, replace the wastewater in the tank with clean water to help minimize odors. To do this,

1. Run an inside faucet for about 10 minutes – long enough for the grinder pump to start working (you may need to go outside near the pump and listen to verify it has started).
2. After the pump starts, turn the inside faucet off.
3. The pump will run until the tank is empty and shut off automatically.

This process will cleanse the pump and keep it filled with a minimum amount of clean water. Remember to always leave the power to the pump on.

