



City of Rincon Water/Sewer Department

Grinder Pump - Do's and Don'ts “Clean and Simple”

Some homes and businesses, because of the limited elevation and gravity feed in coastal areas, require grinder pumps to “tear up” the material being flushed through the sewer pipes, and then to pump it forward in the system to a place where it can be sufficiently treated. The grinder pump is an important part of the efficiency of the sewer system in Rincon. The reservoir tanks, at the grinder pump, collect all the “effluent” from the household, and a float-switch starts the pump. These sewage grinder pumps take solids and liquids from your toilets, sinks, dishwasher, tubs, washing machine, etc.; then grind it into a slurry; and pump it to the main line leading to the Wastewater Treatment Plant. This is an important process because, in many upcountry areas, sewage can naturally flow downhill by gravity; but not so in many low-lying and coastal areas. In areas where sewage cannot flow downhill by gravity, pumps are used to force sewage through the small lines to the Wastewater Treatment Plant. These pumps are initially provided and installed by the City of Rincon.



PROTECT YOUR PUMP. It is important what materials should NOT be placed into the sewer system through sinks, commodes, etc. Be sure to use the strainer in sinks and do not assume that the garbage disposal will break down food with bones, food storage bags, etc. Cold grease and rough edges will snag items in the sewer pipe, cause buildup and pipe blockage, and sewage backup in your home or business.

Do NOT put the following items down the drain in sinks or commodes: bulky foods, grease, cooking oil, seafood shells, egg shells, coffee beans, metal, glass, cloths or napkins, rags, socks, rubber gloves, plastic, toys, eating utensils, sanitary wipes, baby wipes, disposable toilet bowl scrubbers, hair clippings, diapers, Depends, sanitary napkins, tampons, condoms, paint, aquarium rocks, sand, or cat litter. Keep a few zip-lock bags handy and dispose of these items through the regular trash pick-up and removal. In addition, you should never put the following items into the sewer: medicines, strong caustic chemicals, poisons, lubricating oil and/or grease, degreasing solvents, antifreeze, flammable material, gasoline, kerosene, and paint thinner. These items may

interact drastically with other chemicals in the pipe system; and at the very least, will be much more expensive for the City of Rincon to process and treat. Ultimately, if you don't pay for it going into the trash can, you will pay for it in higher wastewater treatment costs.

Please do not plant flowers, shrubs, fences, etc. too close to the grinder pump unit. The pump has a side vent which must stay cleared. Roots and debris can cause the pump not to function properly. Ground should slope away from the pump, so that rainwater does not collect and fill up the reservoir, cause it to kick on, and use your electricity unnecessarily. Sump pumps should not be tied into sewer lines.



\$\$ IT CAN COST YOU \$\$. If these unapproved items get caught in and damage the grinder pump, it voids the warranty, and you will be charged for the replacement of the pump, which is expensive, and the installation of the new pump, not to mention the “down time” while your sewer system is not working.

If you are absent from the house for a couple of weeks, run water into the system on your return to fill the grinder pump “reservoir” to soften and loosen any dried material in the reservoir. Do not disconnect power to the pump to save electricity, as it will not function when needed, and it only operates when needed. If the reservoir tank fills and the pump does not start, it should “alarm”. It may pump out and clear itself in a few minutes. The pump will normally run for a minute or two, as it pumps out. If the power is off, the alarm will not function. If power service is interrupted, keep water usage to a minimum, because the pump will not operate, and continued use may cause sewage to back up into your home or business. If you have problems, call the City of Rincon Water/Sewer Department at (912) 826-5745 during regular business hours, or at (912) 210-6237, for emergencies after hours.

The City of Rincon charges Impact and User Fees to pay for the cost of operating a water and sewer system, since there are no Property Taxes charged by the City of Rincon. Additional late fees and other penalties are charged as appropriate and according to City of Rincon policies. Call the City before digging, to locate and protect various electrical, water, and sewer utility lines in your yard. With your cooperation the grinder pump and system should be functional, safe, and reliable for many years.



Contact Information: (912) 826-5745 Rincon City Hall (Mon-Fri, 8-5pm)
(912) 210-6237 Emergency After Hours

A Homeowner's Guide to Grinder Pumps