

295 Bordentown-Chesterfield Road  
Chesterfield, NJ 08515



Telephone: (609) 298-2311  
Fax: (609) 298-0469  
www.chesterfieldtwpnj.gov

**TOWNSHIP OF CHESTERFIELD**  
**BURLINGTON COUNTY, NEW JERSEY**

Resident  
Chesterfield, NJ 08515

Re: Sewage Grinder Pump Maintenance & Care

Dear Resident:

You are receiving this letter as a courtesy reminder regarding your individual responsibility in helping to maintain the service integrity and reliability of the township-owned sewage grinder pump attached to your home. This system is designed to convey sanitary sewer from the underground pumping chamber that is installed on your property to a force main located in the street. The pump chamber, pump, pump discharge pipe and alarm box are considered Township property and are maintained by the Township for your use. As such, there is the expectation that you will only use the system for its intended purpose and that you will not misuse or abuse the system. The system is designed to accept flow from kitchen and bathroom sinks, washing machines, bathtubs, dishwashers, human waste and toilet paper. Any other materials discharged into the system have the potential to cause damage. This includes items that may be marketed as *flushable*, such as cleaning wipes and other personal care items. We have found that people seldom consider how their lifestyles and daily decisions can negatively impact the longevity of the township-owned sewerage grinder pumps and the vital service they perform. Attached is a listing of the major items that should **never** be discharged into the sanitary system.

Under Chapter 216-12 of the Chesterfield Township Code, which covers sewage disposal systems, it is the homeowner's responsibility to operate their system in a proper manner. As such, the owner is responsible to ensure that their system is not abused through illicit connections and/or prohibited items being discharged. Too often, the township sewer contract responds to an issue at a household and finds a situation that was preventable and avoidable. The response by our contractor is a costly endeavor which is paid for and shared by all of your fellow sewer system ratepayers. The misuse by a single ratepayer has an impact on all sewer utility ratepayers. It is for this reason the township code requires the recapture of costs associated with misuse of the system.

Any sewer service call that is found to be caused by misuse or abuse may result in charges to the homeowner for the cost of the repair. Such charges will be applied to the next quarterly sewer bill and may include all labor, parts, and replacement pumps if necessary to correct the system.

Again, please note that these rules have been in place for a number of years and are not intended to punish people for having a sewer emergency. The purpose is to promote individual accountability for their sewer systems and to reduce the burden that all sewer users face when some individuals abuse the Township's property. If you have any questions or require additional information please do not hesitate to contact our office.

Sincerely,

Caryn M. Hoyer, RMC  
Township Clerk



## **TOWNSHIP OF CHESTERFIELD**

### **BURLINGTON COUNTY, NEW JERSEY**

---

#### **Sewer Pump Care**

##### **Misuse & Abuse**

Based on the pump manufacturer's recommendations, the following should not be discharged into the system:

- Glass
- Diapers, Socks, Rags or Cloth
- Metal
- Plastic Objects (Toys, Utensils, etc.)
- Seafood Shells
- Cooking oils, fats and grease
- Sanitary Napkins or Tampons
- Cotton balls and swabs
- Cleaning wipes of any kind
- Condoms
- Facial tissue
- Bandages and bandage wrappings
- Automotive Fluids
- Paints, solvents, sealants and thinners
- Poisons and hazardous waste
- Any other items that can be disposed of elsewhere

##### **Illicit Connections**

The homeowner may not have any of the following connected to their sanitary sewer system:

- Floor drain, area drain or yard drain
- Rain conductor or downspout
- Grease pits
- Air-conditioning equipment
- Homeowners are also not permitted to discharge any waste from a privy, cesspool, septic or other individual sewage disposal system into their sewer system.
- Sump Pump
- Stormwater inlets or catch basins
- Industrial waste

##### **Periods of Disuse**

If your grinder pump is to be left in an unoccupied home or building for longer than a couple of weeks, the following should be done: Run water in a kitchen or laundry sink long enough to cause the grinder pump to turn on. Immediately turn off the water and allow the grinder pump to pump down and automatically shut off. This will purge the system and leave it filled with a minimum of clean water. Leave the electrical power to the grinder pump on. There is a heating element inside the control compartment that will eliminate possible condensation problems.

##### **Power Failure**

If electrical power service is interrupted, water usage must be kept to a minimum. Your grinder pump cannot dispose of wastewater without electrical power and usage must be limited to reserve capacity of the tank.

##### **Pump Failure Alarm Light**

Your grinder pump has been designed and manufactured to provide years of trouble-free operation. However, in the event that a failure should occur, the red alarm light will turn on and an audible alarm will sound. This audible alarm can be muted by pressing the *Silence* button on the bottom of the alarm panel. You should refrain from using water or flushing waste to reduce the chance of overflowing your sewer into your house, in the wet well and possibly your yard. If the red light stays lit for 15 minutes or longer, there is a problem and you should contact the Chesterfield Township Public Works Department at (609) 298-2311. After normal working hours or on weekends, use the same number and follow the prompts for Public Works to report a sewer emergency.