

## PLEASE KEEP THIS FOR FUTURE REFERENCE

Notice to Grinder Pump System/Pressure Sewer Users  
CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF WEST BLOOMFIELD

**FOR SERVICE, CALL:**  
**West Bloomfield Township Water & Sewer Department Operations at**  
**(248) 451-4780**  
**After hours: (248) 975-9200**

West Bloomfield Township has installed a grinder pump pressure sanitary sewer system at your home. This system is somewhat different from a "normal" gravity sewer system. Buried on your property is a fiberglass tank, which is approximately eight feet tall and is two feet in diameter. Only the upper portion of this tank is visible. The sewer line carrying waste from your home has been routed to this tank.

Located inside the tank is a grinder pump, which automatically and periodically pumps the waste from the tank into the pressure sewer system. The pressure sewer system discharges into your community's collection/treatment system.

The Water & Sewer Department of West Bloomfield Township or its contractor will provide maintenance and service for your grinder pump. **FOR THE SYSTEM TO OPERATE SUCCESSFULLY, EACH HOMEOWNER MUST ASSIST BY NOTIFYING THE WATER & SEWER DEPARTMENT AT THE ABOVE TELEPHONE NUMBER WHEN PROBLEMS ARISE. WE APPRECIATE YOUR HELP.**

A malfunction of the grinder pump will initiate an audible alarm and signal light.

In the event an audible alarm and alarm light are detected, and/or an emergency condition occurs, the homeowner should call the service number listed at the top of this sheet to confirm that the alarm condition has been received. **DO NOT ATTEMPT TO MAKE REPAIRS YOURSELF.** During ANY pump malfunctions, refrain from water usage until repairs are made. Continued use of water will increase the difficulty of the repair. Should you observe your neighbor's system in an alarm state, and you suspect that they are not home, please notify the Dispatch Center. The signal light will turn off when the problem has been corrected.

For the audible alarm there is a button on the bottom of the alarm panel to silence the alarm. The red alarm light will remain on as long as an alarm condition exists. If the alarm light is still active after one (1) hour, you should still call the service number listed at the top of this sheet. A service technician will be dispatched to resolve the alarm condition.

The tank can fill with sewage and overflow (back up) into the plumbing during a prolonged power outage. For this reason, during outages, restrict water usage. When power is restored, you may witness an alarm. This alarm will continue for approximately 5-10 minutes or until the pump has emptied the tank. At this time, the visual alarm will cease (indicating normal operation has been restored). No service call is required in this situation.

The grinder and pump can handle any material you would **normally** discharge into the sewer. **Do not flush coffee grounds, sanitary napkins, dental floss, disposable and/or cloth diapers down the drain.** The grinder is similar to a household garbage disposal. It can be clogged. Metal filings or sand introduced to the system will cause premature wear on the pumps. Excessive grease can cause clogging of the gravity sewer/pressure sewer lines, and can foul the on-off controls on the grinder pumps.

**NEVER BURY YOUR GRINDER PUMP STATION.** Your grinder pump will not function if it is buried. **The grinder cover must be at least 4" above grade.**

With each homeowner's cooperation, we can expect a long and successful operation of our pressure sewer system. Following is a list of **DO's** and **DON'T's** about the system. Many of these **DON'TS** are also illegal, subjecting violators to criminal and/or civil penalties.

**DON'T** dispose of collection water from Rainbow Vacuum Cleaners.



**DON'T** start digging to find an underground utility. Telephone MISS DIG at 1-800-482-7171, at least 72 hours in advance of any digging. All utility companies with underground facilities in your area will surface mark their lines.

**DON'T** connect down spouts, sump pumps, storm drains, or allow any other surface water to get into the pressure sewer. This additional water will increase pumping costs, deplete the available capacity of the collection system, and add needlessly to the daily volume of water to be processed at the treatment facility.

**DON'T** wash construction material such as drywall compound, dust from drywall installation, grout, rags, or paint (latex, oil and/or acrylic) into system.

**DON'T** flush undesirable substances into the sewer. You must **NEVER** introduce explosives, flammable material, strong chemicals, gasoline, or darkroom chemicals into the system. Materials such as grease, coffee grounds, swiffer cloths, sanitary napkins, cloth, elastic, glass, seafood shells, cat litter, abrasives (sand, steel wool, lapping compound, etc.), and large amounts of hair cause maintenance problems. Disposal of undesirable substances causing damage to the grinder pump will be charged to the property owner of record.

**DON'T** try to hook up to a sewer main without the proper approvals and permits. These sewer mains are under pressure.

**DON'T** drive on the grinder pump access cover. You will damage your grinder pump. If your tank is in a possible traffic area, consider putting up an attractive barricade or row of shrubs to discourage traffic. Traffic damage will be charged to the property owner of record.

**DON'T** build any structure over the sanitary line.

**DON'T** install landscaping or other improvements over the sanitary line, since the Township is not required to replace or restore such items.

**DON'T** vandalize or tolerate vandalism of your community sewer system. Repairs necessitated by abuse or deliberate misuse will be charged to the property owner. Too many problems could lead to rate increases for all residents.

**DON'T** bury your grinder pump. Your grinder pump will not function if it is buried. **The grinder cover must be at least 4" above grade.**

**DO** familiarize yourself with the location of the electrical control panel and note the number on the panel. If you have a house sitter, be sure to tell them the function and location of the control panel. Show your neighbors, also. If they are not a part of the system, they may not know its function or how they may be of assistance should an alarm occur.

**DO** call the Water & Sewer Department at 248-451-4780 whenever an alarm occurs. No quarterly maintenance fee is charged by the Township. However, the property owner will be billed by the Township for maintenance calls as they occur.

**DO** be aware that West Bloomfield Township personnel and/or its contractor will service and maintain all equipment except the inlet plumbing. Maintenance of the plumbing running from your home to the tank is the responsibility of each property owner.

**DO** call (248) 451-4832 should you have any question concerning the billing of your account. Bills will be based on rates approved by the Township Board and will be issued on a quarterly basis. Due dates will be listed on the bill and the amounts owing are secured by a lien on the property that can be collected on the tax bills.

**DO** realize that all legal matters, quarterly sewer charges and assessment payments are the obligation and responsibility of the property owner of record. All correspondence will be directed to the owner of record and the owner will be responsible for compliance (including informing any tenant users)

**DO** ensure the final grade around your grinder pump always **slopes down (or away)** from the edge of your grinder pump.

\_\_\_\_\_  
OWNER(S) SIGNATURE OF RECIEPT

\_\_\_\_\_  
DATE

PROPERTY ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

