4. How do I properly maintain my grinder pump?

In addition to following the tips provided in question #3 we recommend that you have a professional service company clean, inspect and service your pump unit at least once every year.

Thomas H. Erb & Sons Inc.

Can provide you with this service.

We have over 35 years of experience with maintaining wastewater treatment systems.

- Grinder pump maintenance programs
- Loaner pumps on hand
- Grinder pump parts in stock
- New pumps in stock
- 24 hour emergency service

For Additional Information Contact:

Thomas H. Erb & Sons at

Lititz
717-626-5591

Manheim
717-664-3157

Ephrata
717-733-4371

Adamstown
717-484-0947

Quality
GRINDER
PUMP
INSTALLATION & REPAIRS
MAINTENANCE

As Conducted By:
THOMAS H. ERB & SONS, INC.
LITITZ, PA
(717) 626-5591
FAX (717) 627-1029
1. **What is a grinder pump?**

A grinder pump works like a household garbage disposal, but on a larger scale. It grinds up wastewater produced in your home (i.e. toilet use, shower, washing machine, etc.) and pumps it into the public sewer system.

2. **How does it work?**

A grinder pump is placed in a tank (or well) that is buried in a convenient outdoor location on a homeowner’s property (grinder pump units also can be purchased for inside installation). The tank provides wastewater holding storage capacity. When water is used in the house, wastewater flows into the tank. When the wastewater in the tank reaches a pre-set level, the grinder pump automatically turns on, grinds the waste, and pumps it out of the tank via the homeowner’s on-site sewer service line and into the public sewer system. A grinder pump will normally run for one or two minutes and automatically turn off when the tank is emptied. The pump is powered by electricity and is connected to a control panel.

3. **What can I do to protect my grinder pump?**

A properly maintained grinder pump should be able to handle wastewater from the kitchen, bathroom, laundry, etc. However, some chemicals and substances can adversely impact a grinder pump and may cause safety hazards. Please check the labels on all chemicals before using/disposing. Also, never pour the following items down drains or flush down toilets:

- Explosive or flammable material
- Kitty litter
- Aquarium gravel
- Strong chemicals or toxic, caustic or poisonous substances
- Degreasing solvents
- Diapers, feminine products, or cloth of any kind
- Fuel or lubricating oil, paint thinner or antifreeze
- Plastic objects
- Seafood shells.

These items can damage the grinder pump and its controls, cause blockages and backups and may create unsafe conditions in your lines and tank. Also, never connect a sump pump to sewer lines. Doing so is a violation of most Plumbing Codes and Environmental Codes and decreases the sewer mains’ flow capacity while increasing wastewater treatment costs. In the case of a grinder pump, a sump pump connected to the sewer system may raise your electric rates and shorten the life of your grinder pump.