

# Village of Boaz Sewer Utility

17010 State Highway 171  
Richland Center, WI 53581-3967  
Phone: (608) 536-3466  
Fax: (608) 536-3469  
Email: villofboaz@mwt.net  
www.villageofboaz.com/sewer-garbage

## GRINDER PUMP INFORMATION SHEET FOR CUSTOMERS OF BOAZ SEWER UTILITY

(Revised July 2017)

### *How a Grinder Pump Sewer System Works*

The Boaz Sewer Utility uses a grinder pump sewer system. Grinder pump sewer systems are used in areas where gravity service is not available. When a residence is at a lower elevation than the sewer main, it requires the use of a grinder pump to force the wastewater out of the residential area toward the retention ponds. There are currently forty (40) grinder pumps located in the Village of Boaz. There may be one, two, or three residences connected to each grinder pump.

A grinder pump is placed in a tank that is buried in the ground, and the tank provides wastewater holding storage capacity. When water is used in a residence, wastewater flows into the tank. When the wastewater in the tank reaches a preset level, the grinder pump automatically turns on, grinds the waste, and pumps it out of the tank into the sewer main. A grinder pump will normally run for one or two minutes and automatically turn off when the wastewater in the tank reaches the preset off level. The pump is powered by electricity.

### *Care and Use of the Grinder Pump*

Eliminating the following items from entering the sewer system will reduce emergency calls for malfunctioning pumps and enhance the life of the pumps.

- Sanitary hygiene products
- Fibrous hand wipes/baby wipes/sanitary wipes
- Diapers
- Cloth of any kind
- Plastic objects of any kind
- Q-tips
- Prophylactics
- Dental floss
- Egg and seafood shells
- Cooking oil or grease
- Lubricating oil or grease
- Combustible liquids or items of any kind
- Rocks or grit of any kind
- Glass
- Metal



Clockwise from upper left:  
alarm system,  
meter with  
alarm system,  
grinder pump  
top



### *During Loss of Electrical Power*

The grinder pumps cannot dispose of wastewater without electrical power. During an electrical outage, keep water usage to a minimum until power is restored.

### *Grinder Pump Alarm*

In the event of a high water level in the tank, an alarm will sound and a red light will come on. If the alarm activates *and there has not been a power outage that would cause the tank to fill*, call Mark Anderson at 608-475-1796. Continuing to add wastewater to the tank during an alarm event may cause wastewater to back up into the residence.

### *When You Are Away*

If your residence is to be left unoccupied for longer than two weeks, use the following procedure prior to leaving: Run clean water into the unit until the pump activates (approximately 15 minutes). Turn off the water and allow the grinder pump to run until it shuts off automatically.