

## DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

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# Sussex County

DELAWARE  
sussexcountype.gov

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## Proper Use of Grinder Pump (E/One) Systems

*Important Information for Sussex County Homeowners*

Dear Sussex County Homeowner,

Your property is served by a grinder pump (E/One) system, which is a vital component of Sussex County's sanitary sewer infrastructure. Grinder pump systems are designed to handle normal household wastewater only. Improper use can cause system failures, sewage backups, environmental impacts, and costly repairs that may become the responsibility of the homeowner.

To help ensure reliable operation and protect public infrastructure, please follow the Do's and Don'ts outlined below.

### DO's – Approved Discharges

Only the following items should be discharged into your grinder pump system:

- Wastewater from sinks, showers, bathtubs, and washing machines
- You also need to make sure you're flushing **ONLY THE THREE Ps!**
  - ✓  Pee
  - ✓  Poop
  - ✓  (Toilet) Paper

If it did not come from your body or is not toilet paper, it should not be flushed down the toilet or drained into the grinder pump system.

### DON'Ts – Prohibited Items

The following items can damage grinder pump equipment and must never be discharged:

#### Personal & Household Items

- "Flushable" wipes of any kind
- Baby wipes, cleaning wipes, paper towels, napkins, tissues, mops
- Hair clippings in excess
- Feminine hygiene products, diapers
- Cotton balls, swabs, dental floss

#### Kitchen & Food Waste

- Fats, oils and grease (FOG)
- Food scraps, coffee grounds, eggshells



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## **DON'Ts – Prohibited Items (continued)**

### **Chemicals & Hazardous Materials**

- Paint, solvents, thinners
- Pesticides, herbicides, fertilizers
- Automotive fluids (oil, antifreeze, fuel)
- Harsh chemicals or drain cleaners

### **Other Prohibited Items**

- Cat litter
- Medications
- Plastics, rubber, or metal objects

### **Why Proper Use Matters**

Grinder pumps rely on internal cutting mechanisms and electric motors that are not designed to handle the items listed above. Improper use may result in:

- Grinder pump failure or burnout
- Sewage backups into the home
- Environmental contamination
- Service disruptions
- Repair or replacement costs billed to the homeowner

### **If Your Grinder Pump Alarm Activates**

If the alarm sounds:

- Reduce water use immediately
- Do not attempt to open or service, the pump
- Contact Sussex County for assistance as soon as possible

### **Sussex County Contact Information**

Sussex County Division of Environmental Services

**24/7 Emergency: (302) 855-7379**

Office: (302) 855-7730

Website: [www.sussexcountyde.gov/environmental-services](http://www.sussexcountyde.gov/environmental-services)

Thank you for your cooperation in helping Sussex County maintain a safe, reliable, and efficient wastewater collection system.

Sincerely,  
Sussex County Engineering Department  
Division of Environmental Services