



## MISSION:

The Sewer Commission was established by an Act of the State Legislature in 1962. The Commission is responsible for establishing and implementing the policies which manage the Town's sewage collection system and wastewater treatment plant. The Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP) is currently operated by Woodard & Curran. The WWTP is continuing to produce a high quality effluent utilizing its innovative membrane technology. Among other responsibilities, the Cohasset Sewer Commission actively tries to respond to concerns of the system users, supervise the operation of the treatment plant and collection systems, coordinate regulatory aspects, manage budgetary issues and conduct future planning.

## Sewer Commission Members:

William McGowan, Chairman  
Email: [WMcGowan@cohassetma.org](mailto:WMcGowan@cohassetma.org)

Wayne Sawchuk, Clerk  
Email: [WSawchuk@cohassetma.org](mailto:WSawchuk@cohassetma.org)

Paul Kierce, Vice Chairman  
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# COHASSET SEWER COMMISSION

## HOW TO CARE FOR YOUR GRINDER PUMP

Contact us:

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Cohasset, MA 02025  
781-383-4100 x5121

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Visit us on the Web:  
<http://cohassetma.org>



### ***Using the system:***

The Low Pressure Sewer system operates like a normal sewer system, taking waste liquids from your toilet, sink, shower, bath, dishwasher and washing machine and transferring them to the sewer system. Because the system is under pressure, grinder pumps are required to convey your flow into the system. Pumps are mechanical devices which can clog and malfunction if misused; so only domestic waste should be discharged to the unit.

### ***Avoid blockages and damage:***

#### ***The following items should NOT be placed into any sewer system:***

- Glass
- Metal
- Abrasive materials
  - Gravel
  - Sand
  - Aquarium stone
  - Coffee grinds
- Seafood shells
- Socks, rags or cloths
- Plastic
- Rope, string, fishing line
- Sanitary napkins, tampons or applicators
- Dental floss and dental picks
- Disposable diapers
- Kitty litter
- Explosives or Flammable materials
- Nail polish remover, acetone
- Paints, varnishes, paint thinner or additives
- Plastic bags, pet waste bags
- Lubricating oil, grease, cooking oil
- Strong chemicals (acids or alkalines)
- Gasoline, diesel fuels, kerosene
- Storm water runoff or roof downspouts
- Floor drains or sump pump discharges
- Personal, cleaning, cosmetic or baby wipes (and other similar products even if labeled "flushable")

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### ***What to do if the alarm sounds:***

Turn off the sound of the alarm by pressing the silence button underneath the alarm panel.

#### **Limit your water usage!**

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Sometimes the condition will resolve itself; or if the unit is without power, it may require a tripped electrical breaker to be reset.

If the alarm light is still active after an hour, call FR Mahoney at **781-982-9300**

If the alarm sounded and the system subsequently cleared itself, you should consider what caused this to happen. If you notice any irregularity with the unit, such as the alarm sounding frequently, then contact the numbers above.

### **DO NOT ATTEMPT TO REPAIR THE UNIT YOURSELF**

### ***Does my unit require periodic maintenance?***

Generally if you follow this guide relative to items which should not be discharged, the pumps require little regular maintenance. Occasionally, higher levels of kitchen grease entering the system can result in a need for grease removal if accumulations are excessive in the pump chamber.

### ***On your property:***

#### ***Be aware ...***

Do not touch the valves.

Do not turn off the power to the pump.  
Do not block the vent on the pump station.  
Do not cover the pump station lid or allow stormwater to flow towards the unit.

Ideally the cover to the unit should be set at least two inches above the surrounding grade to prevent stormwater and soil from entering the pump unit. Modifications to your home may affect the system, such as installing a spa or swimming pool or extending the house over or near the unit or discharge pipe.

Ensure access is available to the pump station at all times. Keep plant growth and other debris away from the unit and the control panel.

### ***If you go on vacation for a length of time....***

Flush the system before you go away. Run clean water into the unit until the pump activates and runs for at least three minutes. Turn off the water and allow the grinder pump to run until it shuts off automatically. If you have a duplex unit (two pumps), special attention must be taken to ensure that both pumps turn on when water is added to the tank.

### ***Take care when digging in the yard...***

While digging near the pump chamber control panel or the discharge pipe. If you do accidentally break any pipeline, or compromise the power wiring call the phone number located on the front of this pamphlet. ***Immediately minimize use of water in the house if this occurs.***