



Down the Drain

An Informational Newsletter from the
Hull Sewer Department
1111 Nantasket Ave. Hull, MA 02045
(781) 925 – 1207



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**Jim Dow, Chief Facility Manager
Hull Wastewater Treatment Facility**

Low-Pressure Grinder Pumps

Many residents in town use low-pressure grinder pumps to discharge the waste from their homes. Some of these are privately owned and some are owned by the Town. Regardless of ownership of these units, proper care and attention are required to make sure that these units function properly and efficiently for as long as possible. If you do have one of these pumps on your property, please insure that nothing other than human waste and toilet paper gets flushed down your toilet. Other items, such as feminine products, floss, “disposable” wipes etc can cause the impellers to jam and render the system inoperable. Once the impeller is jammed, you may not even be aware of a problem until your alarm sounds or possibly begin to experience slow drains or even a back-up in your house. For best results, keep improper materials from entering the system and you should have minimal problems.

Proper vs. Improper Materials to Flush

As with the proper care of grinder pumps listed above, the same precautions should be taken with any type of connection to the municipal sewer system. Cooking grease is a common thing that is rinsed into the sink and can cause problems in a short time frame. Even though your sink water may be warm and the grease slides off the pan, once it gets into a small diameter pipe, it begins to coagulate and before long, it can cause the entire inside diameter of a pipe to seal shut. Please refrain from dumping cooking grease and oil down the drain, dispose of it in a proper manner.

Garbage disposals can also lead to problems because they give people a false sense of security, by grinding up materials before they are discharged. This grinded up material often sits on the bottom of pipes and causes obstructions in sewer laterals and in the street

Sump Pumps

Living in a low-lying area of town often comes with the need to have a sump pump in your basement. Because these pumps often operate automatically with float switches, when the need arises for the pump to come on, most people are not even aware of the location in which these pumps discharge the water. Many people are also unaware that according to Town By-Laws, it is not allowable to have sumps discharge directly into the sewer system. All non-sewer disposed water that enters the sewer system adds to the overall wear and tear on the system and treatment process. Please check your sump pit and follow the route that the discharge piping takes to insure that it dumps the flow into your yard or a pit of some sort. If the pipe leads directly to the sewer line leaving your house, we ask that you have it redirected immediately.

Do You Have A Sewer Blockage or Slow Drains?

If you are experiencing any type of a sewer back-up or even unusually slow drains, please contact this office immediately. Do not call a private plumber first, let us know what is going on and we will dispatch a crew to check the sewer line that runs in front of your house to make sure that the street is flowing properly. If there is a problem in the street, the call to a plumber that you made may cost you money that you didn't need to spend. Once the street is inspected, someone will contact you to tell you the status of their findings and then advise you of what your next steps should be. The Sewer Department number is (781) 925-1207. After hours and weekends, please call the pager at (781) 226-1494

Who Do I Call If The Problem Is Mine?

If you do have a sewer flow problem that is determined to be your responsibility, you can call any licensed plumber that you choose to try to snake your service line and clear your problem. If the plumber is unable to clear your line and you have a more substantial problem that may require an excavation, you will have to hire a contractor licensed to perform this type of work.

Is There A Specific List of Licensed Sewer Contractors?

Yes. Although this list changes frequently, there are currently seven contractors that are licensed through the Hull Sewer Department to perform repair, maintenance and installation of sewer lines within the town. Feel free to contact the Sewer Department office for the most up-to-date list prior to choosing a contractor. The current list consists of:

Aqua Line Utility Contractors
268 Washington Street
East Bridgewater, MA 02333
(508) 690-2009

James Barbuto
1 Dennis Street
Hull, MA 02045
(781) 925-2635

DiVito Construction
664 Nantasket Avenue
Hull, MA 02045
(781) 925-0203

Hub Construction
PO Box 421
Hull, MA 02045
(781) 925-3766

Iaria Brothers
33 Oak Street
Hingham, MA 02043
(781) 749-9468

F. Riley Construction
PO Box 564
Hingham, MA 02043
(781) 749-2577

Sean Farrell Excavation
53 Gilbert Street
Quincy, MA 02169
(617) 472-2020

Are There Any Fees Involved With Doing A Sewer Repair?

Yes, there are different fees based on whatever type of work is required at your property, whether it is to fix a broken pipe, to relocate an existing sewer line or to cap off a line to perform renovations at your property. Please contact our office at (781) 925-1207 for the exact fee for your project.

Who Oversees the Operations of the Sewer Department?

The Sewer Department is under the guidance of the Department of Public Works. The wastewater treatment plant, our seven sewer pump stations as well as all of the sewer pipes and structures in the streets throughout Hull (called the collection system) are operated and maintained by a private company. The current contract is held by United Water which employs several local residents on their workforce to run the system. There are also five citizens that donate much of their free time to make up the Permanent Sewer Commission; they are responsible for setting policy and rates.

The Commission is:

John Struzziery, Chair
Ed Babcock
Lou Collins
Jack Kelly
Rick Matilla