



## BUILDING DEPARTMENT

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# GRANGER SEWER CONNECTION PROCEDURE

If you are located in Granger Sewer Sub-District 1, you may be required to connect to the new sewer system. In order to expedite and simplify the process, the following procedures must be followed.

Only registered septic installers, plumbers, excavation contractors or owners who sign an affidavit are allowed to make the sewer connection. No matter who does the work, the following guideline must be followed.

- 1) **Obtain a permit for a Sewer Connection from the Building Department** - you will need to know if the connection is over 100' or under 100' from the building
  - For details please refer to the attached Granger Sewer Connection Requirements
- 2) **Call the Building Department for an inspection** - you need to schedule the inspection with the Plumbing Inspector. You must call between 7:30- 9:00 a.m. or 3:30- 4:00 p.m. M-F to schedule the inspection (574-235-9554).
  - Someone needs to be at the building to allow the inspector inside to verify that all gray water has been properly diverted. If you call for an inspection and no one is there to allow entry, you will need to pay for another inspection permit and reschedule the appointment. No exceptions!
- 3) Once the sewer connection is okayed, you must also **abandon the septic system**. It will probably be more cost effective to do the connection and abandonment at the same time.
  - For details, please refer to the attached Septic System Abandonment Process for the Granger Sewer Project from the Health Department.
  - Any plumbing on the inside of the building requires a separate permit. All such work must be done by a licensed plumber or, if you live in your home and sign an affidavit, the homeowner.



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# GRANGER SEWER CONNECTION REQUIREMENTS

### Basic requirements:

- 1) Every property served by a water well must connect to the new sewer system unless they have previously obtained a deferment from the Regional Water & Sewer District (RWSD).
- 2) All waste from normal living processes (sinks, toilets, bath, tub, dishwasher, clothes washers, etc) must be connected to the new sewer system.
- 3) All approved industrial sources of waste must be connected to the sewer.
- 4) No clean water from sump pumps, foundation drains, roof drains or any other source may be connected to the sewer.
- 5) Submit a scale drawing "AS BUILT" Site Plan to County Engineering showing the triangulated location of any auxiliary pit location, clean out locations, length and size of all components. Include specifications and pump performance curves of the pit and pump(s) to be used. Auxiliary output cannot exceed the output dose capacity of the E-one (street) grinder. Drawing must be stamped and/or signed off by County Engineering before a permit is issued.
- 6) All work must be performed according to specific requirements and will be inspected. The owner will be required to correct all deficient work.
- 7) **Each E-One grinder station is designed to accept all wastewater from toilets, showers, dishwashers, sinks, etc. Take care to not dump oil, grease, paint, strong chemicals, sand, kitty litter, etc. down your drain. Feminine products and personal/cleaning wipes should be disposed of by alternative means. Vet clinics and pet grooming facilities should avoid sending animal hair to the grinder station.**

### Connection process:

- 1) The property owner or their contractor must obtain a permit from the St. Joseph County/City of South Bend Building Department for the sewer connection.
- 2) The owner or their contractor must follow the Health Department's Septic System Abandonment Process.

### Schedule:

- 1) The line to the sewer may be installed at any time after a permit has been issued by the Building Department.
- 2) The owner must make the connection to the sewer no later than 120 days after the Sewer District has notified the property owner or tenant the sewer is ready for connection.
- 3) The owner must abandon their septic system within 90 days after making the sewer connection.



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Specifications for connecting to the sewer:

1) Sewage line from structure to grinder pump

- a. All laterals shall be constructed of 4-inch PVC Schedule 40 ASTM D 2665-09 pipe with glued connections.
- b. The grinder pump is designed to accept a 4-inch line.
- c. Building sewers should be installed using the shortest and most direct route to the grinder station. Interior plumbing modifications are suggested rather than excessive changes of direction in the building sewer. Any new plumbing done inside the house to within 5 feet of the home must be performed by a licensed plumber unless the homeowner does this work.
- d. A 50-foot separation distance should be maintained between wells and pipes to the grinder pumps where possible. In instances where the proposed gravity sewer laterals must be constructed within 50 feet of a potable public water well, pipe shall be SDR 26 or better.
- e. In instances where an ejector pit and pump connected to a pressure sewer lateral are needed to transmit waste from the building to the grinder pit, the ejector pit shall be located greater than 50 feet from a potable public water well.
- f. Prior to the start of the work, both the location and elevation of the building sanitary drain and lateral connection to the sewer system must be identified to determine if slope is available in the allowable distance. The grinder station location can be obtained from record drawings maintained by the District Engineer. Contact JPR (formerly Wightman Petrie) at 574-232-4388.
- g. The minimum slope of the line from the building to the grinder station shall be 1.20% with 4 inch sewer and 0.60% with 6 inch sewer.
- h. The maximum slope of the line shall from the building to the grinder station shall be 1 ½ inches per foot of line.
- i. In instances where pressure sewer laterals must be constructed due to inadequate or negative slope between the building and grinder station, pipe should be of waterworks grade, with gasket, pressure grade push-on joints (e.g., SOR 21 PVC or Class 52 ductile iron pipe).
- j. If more slope is needed it shall be elbowed down at 45 degrees.
- k. If the line must change directions it shall be done no sharper than with two 45-degree elbows.
- l. The line shall be tested during the Building Department inspection with 5 pounds of air pressure or a 10-foot water column.
- m. When connecting laterals to pipe of differing material, a Fernco connection (or approved equal) shall be used. This is the only location such a connector shall be used.
- n. **Where local and/or state codes require a facility to install and maintain a grease interceptor, the subject facility connecting to the RWSD sewer system shall continue to operate and maintain a grease interceptor in accordance with said standards. Such a facility that does not have an approved grease interceptor will be required to install a grease interceptor in accordance with local and/or state guidelines prior to connection to the RWSD sewer system.**



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### 2) Clean outs

- a. A clean out shall be installed approximately three feet outside the structure and every 100 feet in accordance with state Building Code.
- b. Clean outs must be a Y with a 45-degree elbow not a T.
- c. Clean outs shall be of the same material as the sewer lateral pipe.
- d. Clean outs shall not be covered and shall be readily accessible.
- e. Clean outs shall be plugged or capped with an approved water-tight lid.

### 3) Backfilling of trench

- a. Any open trench lateral construction should be bedded in a minimum of 4" crushed aggregate, conforming to Indiana Department of Transportation No. 53 or No. 8 gradations.
- b. Native soils may be used only if they consist of sand, loam or other similar materials. Native materials that include organic matter, clay soils, all types of refuse, fragments of concrete, large stones, boulders, or other similar deleterious materials shall not be used.
- c. Bedding shall be carefully placed up to the spring line of the pipe, making sure the bottom half of the pipe is firmly bedded and supported.
- d. The remainder of the trench section from the spring line of the pipe to existing ground elevation shall be carefully backfilled with suitable excavated material
- e. At all times during the work, proper care must be taken to keep the trench and any other excavation free from any ground and surface water. Drain or pump water away from the work area to a suitable location without interference to adjoining properties.

### 4) Testing

- a. Building sewers and service laterals shall be pressure tested in the presence of the Building Department's inspector to verify that no leaks are present
- b. The contractor and/or property owner must make all arrangements to conduct the test, as well as furnish all labor, materials, tools, equipment, and apparatus.
- c. Gravity building sewers shall be tested by a low-pressure air test at 5 psig.
- d. To perform the test, add air to the pipe until pressure reaches 5 psi and allow the pressure to stabilize.
- e. Pressure sewer laterals shall be air tested at maximum operating pressure for 15 minutes based upon the pipe manufacturer's specifications prior to connection to the District sewer.
- f. If the pressure drops more than 1.0 psi during the test time, the line is presumed to have failed the test and corrective measures shall be taken at the owner's expense until the sewer passes the test.

### 5) Inspection



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- a. All building sewers and sewer laterals shall be inspected by the Building Department to ensure compliance with these standards. A 72-hour notice for inspections is recommended.
- b. The entire installation and hook up shall be inspected prior to backfilling in order to verify materials and installation. Any building sewer lateral backfilled prior to an inspection approval shall be re-excavated at the owner's expense for inspection.
- c. In instances where service laterals are installed by directional drilling, the owner shall retain a sample of the piping material for verification by the inspector.
- d. Building sewers and service laterals shall be pressure tested in the presence of the Building Department's inspector to verify that no leaks are present.



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ST. JOSEPH COUNTY  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

# SEPTIC SYSTEM ABANDONMENT PROCESS FOR THE GRANGER SEWER PROJECT

### General requirements:

- 1) The septic system must be properly abandoned no later than 90 days of the actual sewer connection. There will be no fee for abandoning the septic system. However, there is a penalty for not abandoning the system by the stated deadline.
- 2) It is most cost effective to abandon the septic system when connection to the sewer is made.
- 3) Any St. Joseph County licensed septic installer, plumber, or excavations contractor may abandon the septic system. If the property owner wants to do the work themselves, they must make prior arrangements with the Health Department.

### Process:

- 1) When all of the requirements listed below have been met **but the work has not been covered**, the contractor shall:
  - a. Make a sketch showing the locations of the items being abandoned as shown on page 2;
  - b. Call the Health Department at 574-235s9721 for an inspection at least two hours prior to needing the inspection. The last inspection of any day will be 4:00 PM; and
  - c. Provide the sketch to the Health Department during our inspection.
- 2) The Health Department will give the contractor a blue tag when the work has been performed correctly.
- 3) The work may then be covered.



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Specifications for abandoning septic systems:

- 1) General requirements.
  - a. Proper disposal, when used below, means that any material, other than sewage, removed from the site including any tank, piping, earthen material, or treatment units shall be taken to a licensed landfill for disposal.
  
- 2) Septic tanks and dose tanks, treatment units, and dry wells shall be abandoned according to the following requirements:
  - a. The electrical power shall be disconnected at the source from all electrical controls and all controls and panels shall be removed. All electrical lines (including service lines) that will not be used for other purposes shall be removed.
  - b. All tanks shall be pumped and cleaned by a company licensed by the Indiana Department of Environmental Management.
  - c. Tank bottoms shall be broken to allow water to escape and shall then be filled completely with debris-free earthen material in a manner to prevent settling. Tanks may be completely removed if desired.
  - d. Dry wells shall be collapsed and filled with debris-free earthen material or removed and properly disposed.
  - e. Treatment units shall be pumped by a company licensed by the Indiana Department of Environmental Management, removed, and properly disposed.
  - f. Effluent filters shall be removed and properly disposed.
  - g. The disturbed area shall be graded so that water does not pond over the area and a vegetative cover shall be established.
  
- 3) Absorption fields shall be abandoned according to the following requirements:
  - a. The components of the absorption field may be left intact if they are to remain undisturbed.
  - b. If the absorption field (including a mound system) is to be removed:
    - i. The absorption field shall be allowed to completely dry;
    - ii. Distribution boxes shall be pumped, removed, and properly disposed;
    - iii. Piping within the field shall be removed and properly disposed;
    - iv. The distribution network, aggregate, and rock or sand (if any) shall be removed from the site and properly disposed;
    - v. Any spillage of sewage shall be excavated and properly disposed; and
    - vi. The site shall be graded so that water does not pond over the area and a vegetative cover shall be established.

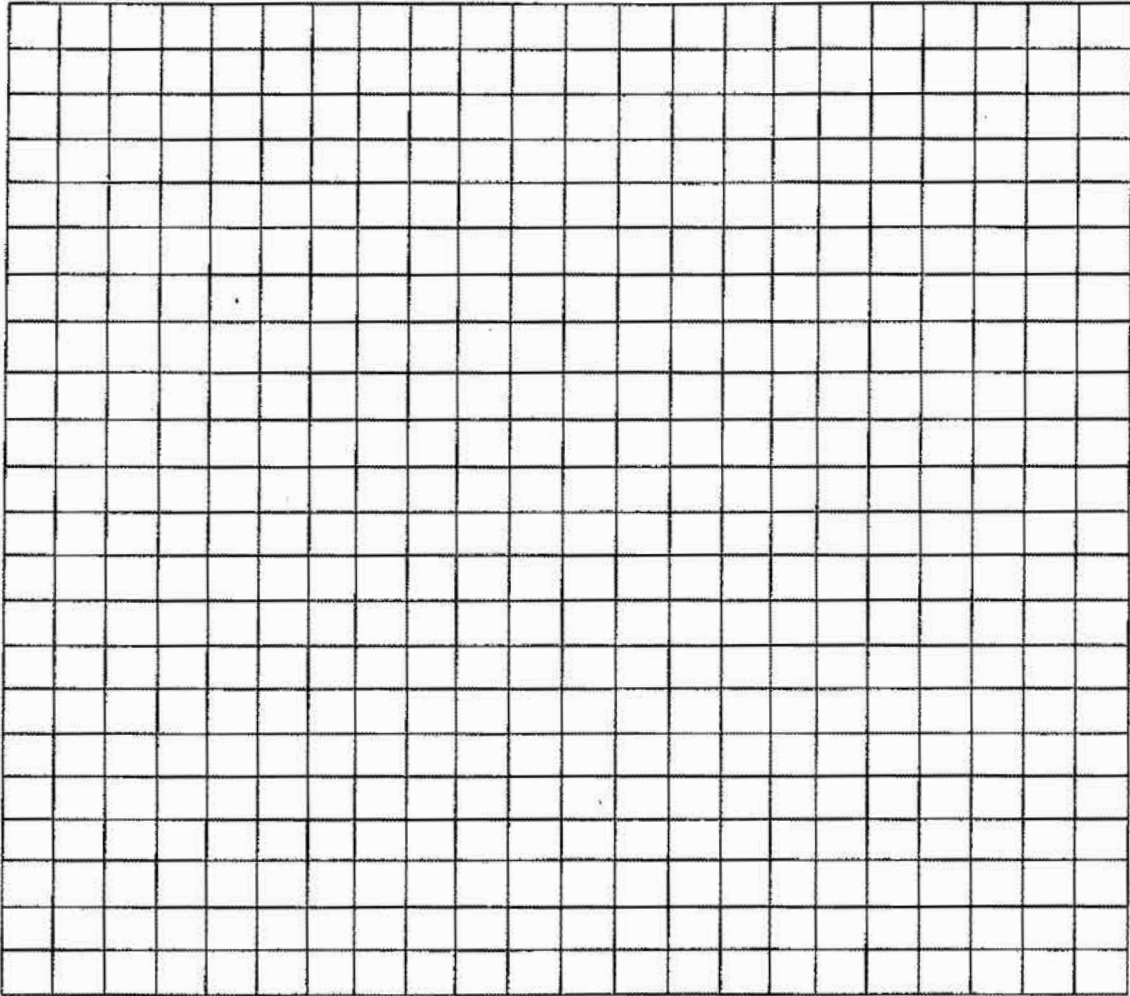
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SITE SKETCH

Site Address \_\_\_\_\_

Contractor Name \_\_\_\_\_

Must show and label any existing structure outline(s), septic or dose tank(s),  
and drywell(s), and field system(s).



Comments \_\_\_\_\_

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For Health Department Use Only

SR. No. \_\_\_\_\_