

Do you know where your sewer trap is located? Every homeowner should take a few minutes to determine where the sewer trap is to alleviate unnecessary frustration before any issues arise. Make sure the caps are not broken or damaged. Air flow is necessary for your traps to function properly so never cover your traps.

It is equally just as important to know where your shutoff valve is located if you have a grinder pump. A grinder pump alarm will sound when wastewater in the tank reaches a certain level. A "nuisance alarm" can result from a large amount of water flowing into the tank in a short amount of time. These nuisance alarms can be caused by running multiple loads of laundry, taking long showers or emptying large tubs. In these instances, your tank may need time to "catch up". If you have been sending large amounts of water into your tank wait about 15 minutes to see if the alarm stops. However, if you haven't been draining large volumes of water or the alarm does not turn off, discontinue water use to avoid causing a backup or overflow. In addition, make sure your shutoff valve is exposed and accessible for a plumber or Authority employee to close in the event of an issue until repairs can be made.

Knowing the locations of your sewer trap and shutoff valve reduces frustration and stress when confronted with a plumbing issue. Don't exacerbate your aggravation by needing to search for traps and valves during an irritating incident.