If a Pump Station serves your property, the likelihood is that the development is not connected directly to the main sewer system. Therefore, the waste from the property flows to a storage chamber fitted with submersible pumps which discharges automatically to the main sewer system.

When liquid waste enters the Local or Water Authority sewer systems, it may typically pass through many more pumping stations handling progressively bigger flows before reaching the treatment works. The fact that your development has its own private pumping station, should not be viewed as an unusual situation, perhaps just something which you’ve not known about or had any responsibility for in the past.

Sewage pump systems are designed to handle foul water, natural human waste and biodegradable products. Other household waste and non-biodegradable products should never be disposed of through the drainage system regardless of whether your property has its own pump system or not.

Disposal of non bio-degradable products and modern cleaning materials (which sometimes state they are flushable) will affect the reliability of all pumping stations - causing pumps to block and storage chambers to become congested with non-pumpable waste.

Items which can cause blockages include:

- Sanitary Products
- Nappies • Toilet Wipes
- Face Wipes
- Cleaning Rags
- Cloths
- Medicines and Medical Equipment
- Syringes and Hypodermic Needles
- Cooking Oils
- Incontinence Materials

Waste entering Local Authority pumping stations creates major problems and high maintenance costs.

Routine maintenance of your development’s pumping station is essential for reliable operation.

In some situations we will let you know when *tankerage* is required.

What is Tankerage?

The majority of people associate tankerage with the means of emptying septic tanks and cesspits i.e. a tanker removing waste.

Occasionally *tankerage* maybe required for pumping stations to remove waste likely to affect the operational reliability of a pump system. Some tankers also have clean water pressure jetting facilities to clean pumping chambers when necessary.
Why is Tankerage needed on pump stations?

The majority of pumping stations do not require tankerage and only operational experience can provide guidance.

The need for tankerage can arise from a combination of the following:

1. A large fat content entering the chamber. Fat tends to cool down, separate from the water and coagulate within the pump chamber. This can affect operation of automatic controls and cause pump blockage problems.

2. Non-biodegradable products. Often lighter than water, these can coagulate on the surface of the chamber and combined with fat products, create a heavy crust on the liquid surface affecting operation of automatic controls and can cause blockage problems.

3. A high level of solids entering a chamber. Solids quickly settle out from the liquid, sink to the base of the chamber and are likely to be sucked into a pump en masse. This can cause blockage problems and potential pump damage.

4. Grease and fat products encasing pump motors which are water-cooled. This causes motors to overheat resulting in potential early pump failures.

5. Foreign debris within a pump station i.e. builder’s debris, wood, gravel, silt or sand. These can cause pump blockages, early wear and failure of pumps. Tankerage and pressure cleaning is used to deal with all these problems, which are routine housekeeping issues and can affect all pumping stations.

Tankerage frequency can be reduced and sometimes eliminated by disposing of non-biodegradable items correctly and also regularly servicing the equipment.

Should you require further information, please contact the OM Customer Service team on 08453 370 272 (lo-call)*.

*The 08451 number allows customers calling from BT land lines to have their call charged at a ‘lo-call’ rate wherever they are in the country. Mobile and other providers’ charges may vary.