

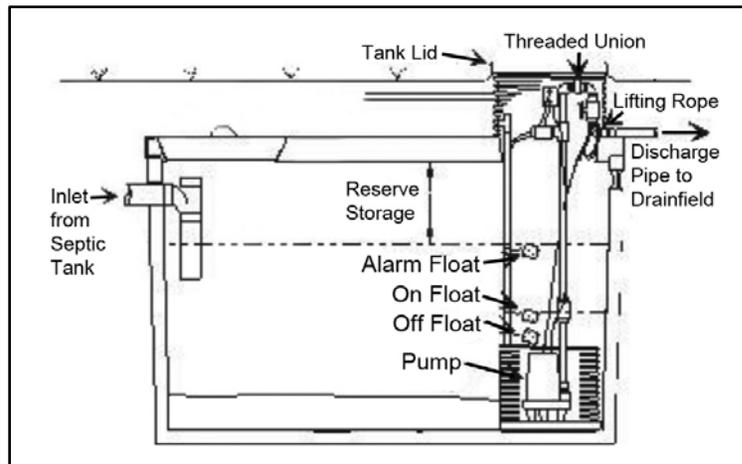
Understanding and Caring for Your Septic Pump Chamber & Alarm

The Pump Chamber

The pump chamber is a concrete, fiberglass, or polyethylene container that collects the septic tank effluent. The chamber contains a pump, pump control floats, and a high-water alarm float. The pump action can be controlled either by the use of control floats or by timer controls. Control floats are set to turn the pump "ON" and "OFF" at levels for pumping a specific volume of effluent per dose. Timer controls are set to produce both the length of the dose and the interval or rest period between doses.

The high water alarm float starts an alarm to warn you of any pump malfunction. If pump timer controls are used, the alarm also will warn you of excessive water use in the home. The float is set to start when the effluent in the pump chamber rises above the "ON" float. The alarm should consist of a buzzer and an easily visible light. It should be on an electrical circuit separate from the pump.

The pump discharge pipe should have a union and valve for easy removal of the pump. A piece of nylon rope or other non-corrosive material should be attached to the pump for taking the pump in and out of the chamber.



What If The Alarm Comes On?

An alarm float will trigger an alarm light to come on and a buzzer to sound if the effluent level inside the pump chamber gets too high. This could be caused by a faulty pump, float, or circuit, excessive water use, or other reasons. By using water conservatively (avoid baths, showers, and clothes washing) the reserve storage in the pump chamber should allow you enough time to get the problem corrected. To silence the alarm, push the reset light on the alarm panel.

Before calling for service or repair, check to see if the problem could be:

1. **A tripped circuit breaker or blown fuse.** The pump should have a separate circuit with its own breaker or fuse. If it's on a circuit with other equipment, that equipment can cause the breaker to trip.
2. **An unplugged power cord to the pump or float switch.** If electrical connections are the plug-in type, be sure switch and pump plugs are making good contact in the outlet.
3. **Control floats that are tangled by other parts in the chamber such as the electric power cord, lifting rope, or pump screen.** Be sure floats operate freely in the chamber.
4. **Debris on floats or support cable that is causing the pump to switch off.** Lift the floats out of the chamber and clean. Do not enter the pump chamber. Gases inside pump chambers are poisonous and the lack of air can be fatal. If the problem cannot be located with the above steps, call your pump service person or on-site system contractor for service or repair. The service or repair of pumps and other electrical equipment must be done by an experienced person.

CAUTION: Always turn off the power supply at the circuit breaker and unplug all power cords before handling the pump or floats.