

# Lorain County General Health District



"For The Health of Us All"

## The Pump Chamber and the Pump

A pump chamber is a watertight tank of concrete, fiberglass or polyethylene plastic, and is designed to collect effluent from the septic or aeration tank. This chamber contains a pump, pump control floats, and a high water alarm float. Effluent flows into this chamber by gravity when water is sent from the house into the sewage system. Five gallons of waste water into the tank would send five gallons of effluent to the pump chamber.

Pump control floats are set to turn the pump "ON" and "OFF" at levels for pumping a specific volume of effluent per dose based on the number of bedrooms in the home. As the effluent level in the chamber rises, a float switch is activated and this activates the pump. The pump then delivers effluent to the next component in the sewage treatment system.

The high water alarm float is used to indicate to the homeowner if the pump or the system malfunctions. The alarm is set to start when the effluent in the pump chamber rises above the "ON" float. The alarm should consist of a buzzer and a light placed in a highly visible area.

### Proper Care Includes:

- **Checking the pump chamber, pump and floats every year and replacing or repairing worn or broken parts.**

The manufacturer supplies maintenance recommendations. Check all electrical parts and conduits for corrosion and have replaced, if needed, by a qualified per-

son. Test the high water alarm.

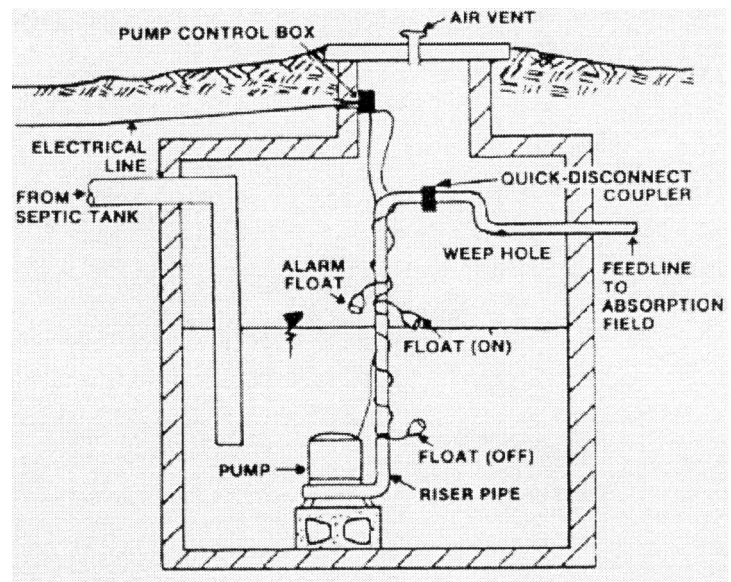
- **Note any leaks into or out of the chamber.** Check at the pipe entry and exit points. Repair leaks if they occur.

- **Have any sludge or scum removed during the pumping of the sewage system tank.**

Occasionally, solids pass through the septic or aerobic tanks to the pump chamber. This may occur if the tanks need pumping or there is a large surge of water. It is important to prevent these solids from being pumped to the next component in the sewage treatment system.

- **Manually exercise the float switches.**

Look for float switch tangling or hanging up that would interfere with normal function.




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