

Cottage Pump Systems

The most common cottage system consists of a jet pump, pressure tank, polyethylene pipe and foot valve, with little maintenance required except draining for winter storage.

Priming a Jet Pump

The objective of priming a pump is to eliminate all air from the pump and suction lines.

Step 1.

Remove plug from top of pump.

Step 2.

Fill pump to the top with water.

Step 3.

Replace plug loosely (to allow any remaining air to exit) and start pump.

If the pump does not pump after thirty seconds, turn it off and REPEAT the above steps. This may have to be done a few times -- until all air is out of all suction pipes and the pump rises in pressure. Tighten the plug.

PLEASE NOTE: Do not run the pump too long without water as you may damage the seal. If, after repeated attempts, the pump still refuses to prime, check suction connections for leaks -- you may be drawing air.

MORE TIPS

Here are a few more tips to help you maintain a trouble-free system!

1. Replace drain plugs on pump with drain cocks or valves for ease and thorough draining of pump.
2. Remove pipes and priming plug from pump so that the air may circulate in pump casing when not in use, eg. winter storage.
3. If possible, remove the pump and store it in a warm dry place over the winter.
4. For ease of removing pipes there are a variety of quick couplers available.
5. Black poly pipe should be a single length if possible -- the fewer joints, the less chance of leaks.
6. For a perfect seal, the foot valve recommended is a spring loaded type. This prevents losing prime or running the pump dry which causes the impeller and diffuser to melt or warp. Some pumps are more resistant to dry running than others.
7. If drawing water from a lake or river where the shoreline is sandy or has lots of weeds or dirt, put a PVC Sandpoint at the end of the pipe. This will prevent a blockage and seal failure in the pump.