

What is an effluent pump?

Effluent pumps are designed to pump filtered effluent (gray water) from a septic tank to a leach field. They typically are designed to handle ½" semi-solids. Because these pumps can handle small semi-solids, many people use effluent pumps as **sump pumps** where grass clippings, leaves, or other small debris might clog the screen of the typical sump pump.

There are two types of effluent pumps available.

A **submersible effluent pump** is used in a septic tank effluent pump system. In a septic tank system the pump is located in a separate chamber. The sewage sinks to the bottom and is eventually pumped out by a sewage removal truck. When the gray water reaches a certain level it flows into the second part of the treatment system. This gray water is then pumped out into a leach field or the town's sewage system (See Figure 1).

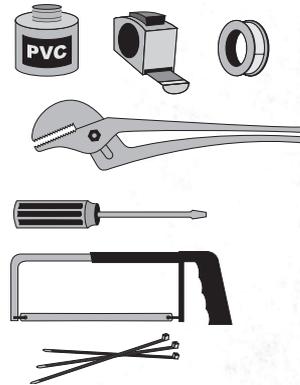
A **self-priming surface effluent pump** (see Figure 2) is installed in the house basement where it is readily available for servicing and maintenance. A suction pipe runs from the second chamber of the septic tank and the gray water is pumped to a sewage disposal field. This pump uses an open trash type impeller and a choice of switch (such as electrodes, diaphragm switch, or float switch), which is suspended in the second chamber of the septic tank. The casing of the pump is designed to keep water over the impeller and allows the pump to re-prime itself.

Replacing an existing effluent pump

Determine the horsepower of your current pump. This will be located on the identification plate of your existing pump. Select a pump with the same horsepower as your existing pump. If the horsepower is not clearly identified on the label, the model number of the product can help you determine it. If the model number contains a 3, 30, 31, or 33 it will most likely be a 1/3 hp pump; if the model number contains a 5, 50 or 52 it will most likely be a 1/2 hp pump; if the model number contains 7 or 75 it will most likely be a 3/4 hp pump; if the model number contains 1 or 100 it will most likely be a 1 hp pump. For example an RL-50SC is a 1/2 hp pump. Check with the pump manufacturer or call our technical support hotline if you are unsure.

If you have recently added plumbing fixtures (such as a bathroom addition), please call our technical support hotline and they can assist you in finding the correct size pump for your needs.

Tools needed



Typical installations

Figure 1

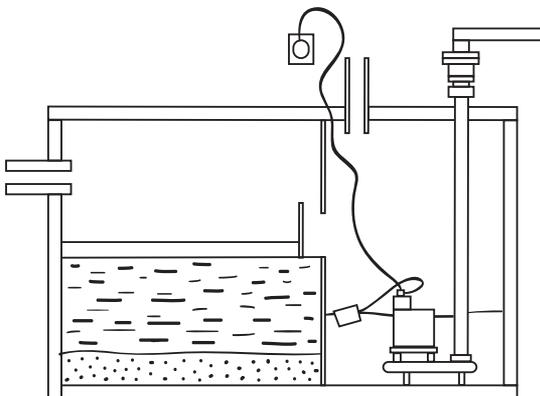


Figure 2

