

BILGE AND SHOWER SUMP

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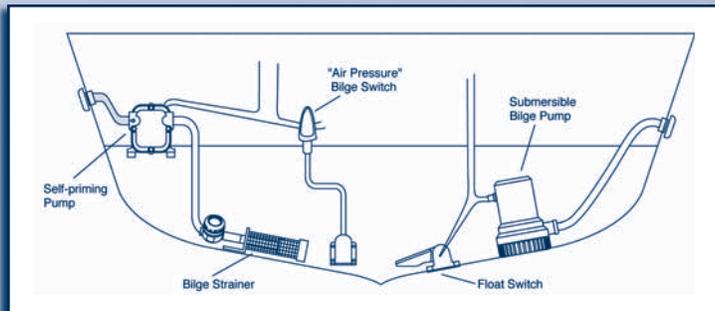
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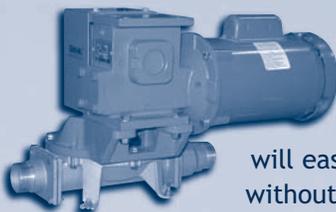
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SELF-PRIMING VS. SUBMERSIBLE BILGE PUMPS



A submersible pump is the most efficient and least expensive way to move a high volume of water in a short amount of time. However, it is not always possible to mount a submersible pump in the space available, and submersible pumps are only capable of moving liquid a short distance. Self-priming pumps can be mounted above the bilge area in a convenient location of your choosing and are designed to overcome much greater back pressure. When choosing a self-priming bilge pump be aware that some types can be damaged when run dry while others are not damaged (example: diaphragm type).

SELF-PRIMING, DRY RUNNING BILGE PUMPS



The diaphragm pumping principle is self-priming and will run dry indefinitely. Small and economical direct drive models will quickly lift bilge water up and force it overboard in short order. Larger sizes will easily pass solids that might pass through your strainer without clogging. Sizes are available that will deliver up to 20 gallons per minute. See page 31 for details.

EMERGENCY BACK-UP BILGE PUMPS

Every boat should have a back-up bilge pump. Either a manual diaphragm or piston design or the emergency electric or engine drive variety. It's also not a bad idea to have a 115 vac submersible bilge pump on your dock for quickly saving your boat from a trip to the bottom caused by low battery, broken seacock or overwhelming storm.



SHOULD I DRAIN MY SHOWER INTO THE BILGE?

You would be surprised how many boats do drain their shower into the bilge. It works fine as long as the shower is seldom used for its intended purpose (which is often the case). The main problem with draining your shower into the bilge is hair. Hair is notorious for clogging drains in homes and can as easily become entangled around the impeller of your bilge pump possibly causing pump failure and catastrophic consequences. We always recommend installing a separate shower sump with an independent pump and float switch.

PICKING THE RIGHT FLOAT SWITCH

Matching the float switch to your pump and boat is vital for dependably keeping your boat afloat. Always verify that the switch is rated for your pump's voltage and amperage. The typical "hinged" float switch operates satisfactorily in most installations. However, we highly recommend



using a switch guard to prevent debris in the bilge from blocking proper operation. "Air Pressure" actuated switches are ideal for bilge areas where there is not room for a submersible switch (or pump for that matter). An example would be the narrow keel of a sailboat. Electronically actuated float switches have come a long way since their introduction. Several models are extremely dependable and will far outlive the traditional "hinged" float switch. See page 30 for our selection of float switches.

KEEP YOUR BILGE DRY WITH A BLOWER

Even the most efficient pump and float switch combination leaves some water in the bilge. This creates high humidity and increases equipment corrosion. There is a simple solution. For years Europeans have used blowers to evaporate the last bit of moisture out of the bilge. See page 56 for our blower selection.