

Lake Travis Lodges Marina Association

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Pump Out Information

Slip-Side Pump Out Information:

M-Dock and L-Dock each have a central pump out system that can allow boats to pump out at their slip. This slip-side pump out system is strictly voluntary and is supported only by its users. It is not a standard service provided by the marina. If you are not interested in the system or don't like the way it works, you do not have to use or pay for it. It seems some people love the system and have no problems at all while others have problems with the system. If you have a problem with the system a marina staff member will give you one-on-one instruction in the system's operation. If this doesn't work, it may be the case that your boat's waste system is incompatible with our pump out system.

There is a free pump out system available to everyone in the marina located next to the Five Star Marine office.

General Information:

The most common problem encountered with our pump out system is an air lock condition. This occurs when large amounts of air are ingested into the system. The diaphragm pump used in the system is ideal for pumping fluid and semi-solid material but not air. When an air pocket reaches the pump, the pump may not be able to pass the air through the system. When this happens pumping action will cease even though the pump itself is still running.

Typically, after a successful pump out, approximately 2 inches of waste water remain in the boat's holding tank. Continuing to pump out past this level will cause air to enter the pump out system. Monitor the sight glass on the pump out nozzle. If it begins to "gulp"

air turn off the valve on the pump out nozzle and deactivate the pump out system. Do not attempt to completely drain your holding tank.

A small stream of bubbles passing through the sight glass during pump out may indicate an air leak in the boat's waste system. For this reason it important to keep your sight glass clean.

The pump out system is capable of pumping 30 gallons per minute at " 0 " height. Most holding tanks are less than 100 gallons. It should take less than 5 minutes to pump out a full holding tank. Do not leave the pump out unattended while it's in operation. This could cause air to enter the system and air lock the pump.

If you choose to rinse out your tank after pumping it out, **it is not necessary to completely fill your tank**. A couple of small rinses is more effective and saves water.

Never use the pump out system for anything other than pumping out your holding tank. Never let harsh chemicals such as chlorine, petroleum products, acids or harsh cleaning products into your holding tanks. Pumping these substances into our septic system can damage the pumps and hoses that everyone at the marina uses and enjoys and may violate environmental regulations.

If your hose or pump out nozzle is for any reason broken or damaged, please report it to the marina office. A broken or damaged nozzle assembly can interfere with the operation of the entire system.

Your pump out hose and nozzle belong to your slip and are the property of the slip owner, regardless of who paid for the installation. It is the slip owner's responsibility to maintain the hose and nozzle. If the hose or nozzle becomes damaged, lost or worn out, the owner must pay to have it repaired or replaced. If at any time the slip owner decides he or she no longer wants a slip-side pump out system, let the marina manager know and it will be removed.

Always keep your pump out hose properly stowed. This prevents damage. Do not leave your pump out hose laying on the walkway. The walkways must be kept clear.

You are not allowed to let anyone **"borrow"** your pump out equipment. It unnecessarily burdens the system and is unfair to fellow marina members who must pay for their pump outs.

Please do not abuse the system with careless or prolonged use. The marina manager has sole discretion for making decisions about the pump out system abuses.

Please turn off the pump when finished.

Do not leave the nozzle unattended while pumping.

Annual maintenance fees are not prorated. If you connect to the system at any point during the year, you still must pay the entire annual fee.

If the pump out isn't pumping effectively, check for open pump out valves on your dock. L-Dock customers should also check the pump out nozzle by the Five Star Marine office.

The L-Dock and M-Dock pump out systems are checked every Friday by marina staff. Please remember, sometimes the system does break down and it is often difficult to find parts or a repairman on weekends. When there is a breakdown, normally the community pump out next to the Five Star Marine office will be working and available for use.

Standard Pump Out Procedures:

1. Make sure no one else is pumping out. The system will only handle one user at a time. All other nozzle valves must be closed in order to pump out.
2. Connect your pump out nozzle to your holding tank deck fitting. Make sure you have an airtight seal from the pump out hose to your holding tank deck fitting
3. Turn on the pump. M-Dock pump is located on the walkway at the end of M-dock. L-Dock pump is located on the walkway next to the Five Star Marine office and can be turned on at a switch located next to the pump. The pump can also be turned on just inside the entry gate to L dock or at another switch located mid-way down L dock.
4. Open nozzle valve completely.
5. Watch the sight glass at your nozzle to insure a flow of liquid. If you do not see liquid flowing after 5 seconds, close the nozzle valve and see troubleshooting section.
6. Close the nozzle at the first sign of air in the sight glass. Air in the sight glass is the indication that your holding tank is empty. Never ingest excess air into the system.
7. Pump out is now complete
8. **Turn off the pump.**

9. Disconnect the nozzle and stow properly with valve turned completely off.

Troubleshooting:

Isolation Test

Isolate the problem first by checking the pump out system to see if it's working properly.

1. Remove your nozzle from your deck fitting.
2. Place the end of the nozzle in the lake and open the valve.
3. Place your hand over the nozzle end and check for suction.
4. If you feel a strong suction as lake water is being sucked into the system, then the system is working properly and the problem may be on your boat. If you do not have strong suction at the nozzle, there is something wrong with the pump out system. (See "Priming the Pump Out System")
5. Close the valve and reconnect the nozzle to your deck fitting. With the pump running wait 5 min and try pumping out again.
6. If you are still unable to pump out liquid, then you probably have a problem on your boat. (See "Fixing Your Boat System")

Priming the Pump Out System

The most common problem associated with a no pumping situation is an air lock condition. An air lock condition occurs when large amounts of air are ingested into the system. When a pocket of air reached the pump sometimes the pump is unable to pass the air pocket. Suction will stop even though the pump itself may still be running. To clear an air lock you will need to add water into the pump system.

Priming with weak suction:

1. Check to see that all other nozzle valves are closed.
2. Turn on the pump.

3. Place the nozzle in the lake, open the valve, place your hand over the nozzle end and check suction.
4. If there is weak suction, keep the nozzle in the lake and let the system pump while you continually check for suction. Suction should start to build. When the air lock is cleared the system is ready for use. This process may need to be repeated due to multiple air pockets.

Priming with no suction:

1. Check to see that all other nozzle valves are closed.
2. Get a water hose ready to put water into the pump nozzle.
3. Turn on the pump.
4. While holding the nozzle chest high, open the valve and place the water hose (with the water running) in the nozzle. Let the water hose run into the nozzle until pumping begins. At first, water may be overflowing from the nozzle because the pump is not yet pumping at full capacity. Once the pump starts working there should be no overflow at the nozzle and all the water from the hose should be going into the system. Once the system starts taking all the water from the water hose (and probably some air too) place the nozzle in the lake. With the nozzle in the lake, place your hand near the nozzle and check for suction.
5. If there is no suction, start the priming process over using the water hose.
6. If there is weak suction, follow the procedure for weak suction above.
7. If there is strong suction, the airlock is cleared and the system is ready to use. Close the valve and follow Standard Pump Out Procedures above.
8. Turn off the water hose

Fixing Your Boat System:

If the pump out system is producing strong suction but you still can't pump out your boat, then the problem is probably somewhere within your boat's waste plumbing

system. An absolute airtight connection between your holding tank and the pump out system is required for the system to work properly. This is even more important if your boat has a high freeboard. A high freeboard can create a high lift condition. You can minimize this effect by keeping the pump hose under the hand rails and as low to the deck as possible. High lift and high suction can collapse a weak hose in the boat's waste system, creating a restriction.

If you see a trail of bubbles mixed with your waste water while pumping out you have some kind of air leak in your boat's plumbing or pump out connection. Make sure all the connections on your boat are tight. Pay careful attention to your deck fitting. We have found that deck fitting are a common source for leaks.

Kinked hoses and clogged vent lines are common causes for restrictions. Even new boats can suffer from some of these problems.