

PUMP LOSING PRIME

(Why it happens and how to fix it)

Buffalo Farm Equipment
Water Problems? We Fix Them
www.buffalofarmequipment.com.au

WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?

Your pump has lost its water and is now pumping **air instead of water**.

👉 You'll notice:

- No water flow
 - Pump running but not working
 - Pressure dropping off
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WHAT'S CAUSING IT?

1. Air leak on the suction line (*most common*)

- Loose fittings
 - Bad thread tape
 - Cracked pipe or hose
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2. Faulty foot valve or check valve

- Not sealing properly
 - Dirt or debris stuck in it
 - Worn out valve
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3. Suction line setup not right

- Too long
- Too much lift (pump too high above water)
- Pipe too small

4. Blocked suction or strainer

- Leaves, mud, algae
 - Dirty intake
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5. Pump not primed properly

- Not filled fully with water
 - Air trapped inside
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HOW TO FIX IT

Step 1 – Prime the pump properly

Fill the pump housing completely with water
→ If possible, fill the suction line as well

Step 2 – Check for air leaks

Go over every fitting on the suction line
→ Tighten or re-tape if needed

Step 3 – Check the foot/check valve

Remove it and inspect
→ Clean it or replace if worn

Step 4 – Improve suction setup

- Keep suction line short and straight
 - Use correct pipe size
 - Keep pump close to water source
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Step 5 – Clean the intake

Check for blockages
→ Clean strainers and filters

WHAT TO AVOID

- Don't run the pump dry
 - Don't ignore small leaks
 - Don't assume the pump is the problem
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BFE TIP

Most priming problems are caused by air leaks or water draining back — not the pump itself

IF YOU COME SEE US

Bring in:

- Pump make & model
- Photos of your setup
- Tell us exactly what it's doing

 We'll help you fix it properly

Need help? Buffalo Farm Equipment can assist with pump selection, irrigation design, solar pumping and water system troubleshooting. Call 03 5752 1422.