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RESOLVING AN AIR LEAK

One of the most common problem found when installing a water softener is an air leak. This occurs when a compression fitting that connects the brine tank to the water softener valve is not properly installed or tightened. You may not have this problem, however, if you do, simple instructions for resolving the problem are below.

First, you need to understand how a water softener functions. Three pounds of salt dissolves into 1 gallon of water. So, a salt setting on your control of 12 pounds (for instance) would mean that about 4 gallons of water would be placed into the tank in preparation for the next regeneration. All of the water in your tank should be drawn back into the softener during regeneration. The brine draw - slow rinse process takes 60 minutes. After all of the brine solution is drawn from the tank, the check valve in your brine tank shuts off so that air cannot be pulled into your piping. During the remainder of the 60 minutes, the resin column is rinsed, but a suction is still placed on the brine line. This suction does nothing, as the check valve is cutting off the draw process, however, if there is a small leak in the air fitting it may be possible that air is being drawn into you piping during the slow rinse portion of the brine draw process.

Take a look at the pictures below to see the various types of fittings that you may have been supplied with to connect the valve and brine tank. One way to check functionality is to disconnect the brine line where it attaches to the brine (salt) tank in your cabinet. A 90° fitting is found at the top of the column that contains the safety float - disconnect the brine line tubing at this point. Submerge this line into a bucket of water.

Autotrol 460i control

Using a flathead screwdriver, place it in the slot found on the button on the face of your control. Push in on the button with the screwdriver, and rotate the button counter-clockwise until you line up the arrow on the button with the brine draw position (note: always depress the button before moving - also, you can only move this button counter-clockwise, do not attempt to move the button in the other direction)

Autotrol 760-762 control

Press the manual regeneration button for 5 seconds to initiate an immediate regeneration. This will move the softener into the C1 backwash position. Press the SET and UP button simultaneously to move the unit into C2 position (brine draw)

Fleck Econominder electro-mechanical control valve

Turn the manual regeneration knob clockwise until "Brine Draw" is displayed

Fleck SE microprocessor control valve

- 1) Press the extra regeneration button for 5 seconds
- 2) Press extra regeneration one time to advance through each stage to regeneration cycle step number 2 (brine draw)

Fleck 6700, 7000 control valve

- 1) Press the extra regeneration button for 5 seconds
- 2) Press extra regeneration one time to advance through each stage to regeneration cycle step number 2 (brine draw)

Clack WS1

- 1) Press and hold the REGEN button
- 2) Press and hold the REGEN button for an additional 3 seconds
- 3) Press the REGEN button to advance until display reads "Brine"



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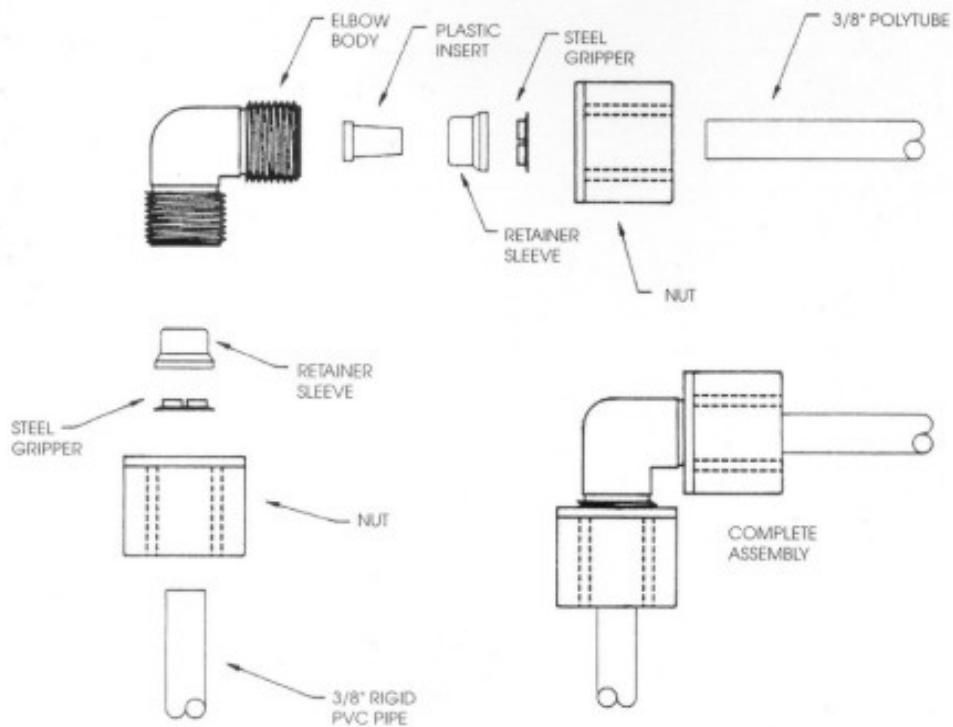
Ensure that the water from the bucket is being drawn into the softener - let this process occur for a few minutes to ascertain correct function – do not permit any air to be drawn into the softener.

If you find that water is not being drawn into the unit, you probably have an air leak at the fitting where the line attaches to the softener unit. Remove and re-install this fitting to be sure that it is completely and correctly attached. Repeat above procedure to assure proper function. If water is being drawn into the softener from the bucket, you probably have a small air leak at the fitting that connects to the top of the float column, or a leak down inside the safety float. Check any connections until all the water is being drawn into your tank during brine re-fill.

By the way, you will notice there is an overflow connection near the top of your brine tank - to adjust the float in your column, simply move the rubber grommet up or down the rod until the float will be at a point (just below) so that it would stop the re-fill process before water enters this overflow drain connection.

On the next pages are pictures of the various type of fittings that you may have - along with correct installation position - do not over-tighten! Hand tight, and then a little more.

Installation Instructions For Brine Valve Elbow



The nut, gripper and retainer sleeve are a 3 piece assembly that can come apart if removed from the elbow body. Parts must be re-assembled exactly as shown to function properly.

When connecting the 3/8" polytube, it is first necessary to assemble the nut, gripper and retainer sleeve on the tubing before inserting the plastic insert. Screw the nut on the elbow body. With a wrench tighten nut securely to create a pressure tight connection.

