



# LUBE TIP: 3 WAYS TO FILL A GREASE RESERVOIR

## DON'T CONTAMINATE YOUR LUBE RESERVOIR!

An Automatic Lubrication System will increase the life of your equipment by dispensing small measured amounts of grease at frequent intervals while your equipment is operating. However, the incorrect method of refilling the lube reservoir through the lid will result in possible contamination of the system and ultimately lead to system breakdowns and unnecessary repairs or replacement costs. There are several ways to properly refill the reservoir, while maintaining system integrity:

### 1. Cartridge Unloader (Manual Filler Pump)

A Cartridge Unloader is a device that allows you to insert a standard cartridge of grease and quickly, manually push the grease into the reservoir. It can fill a typical 5 lb. (80 oz.) reservoir in approximately 5-10 minutes and is ideal for servicing equipment while working in remote areas where air supply or lube trucks are not available.

#### With a Cartridge Unloader, follow these steps:

- Remove the plug and retainer from the top of the Unloader, pull back the piston, drop in the grease cartridge and pull the tab off of the cartridge.
- Thread the retainer back onto the Unloader.
- On the lube reservoir will be a plug or threaded adapter with a cap. Remove the plug or cap.
- Make sure the adapter and the inlet of the Unloader are clean and free of contamination and then thread the Unloader onto the reservoir.
- Grab hold of the piston rod and push it through to empty the cartridge into the reservoir.
- Repeat with additional cartridges until the reservoir is full, then unthread the Unloader from the reservoir and return the plug or cap on the adapter.



**WARNING! – If the adapter on the reservoir and the inlet of the Unloader are not clean, any contamination could be pushed into the reservoir and lead to system failure.**

### 2. Manual or Electric Grease Gun

Anyone who has ever had to grease a bearing is familiar with the standard grease gun and its higher-end sibling the electric grease gun. Although not as fast as the Unloader, a grease gun is still a good alternative while working in remote areas where air supply or lube trucks are not available.

#### With a Grease Gun, follow these steps:

- The reservoir will always have a grease fitting to connect the coupler on the hose end of the gun.
- Load the grease cartridge into the gun.
- Make sure the grease fitting on the reservoir and the coupler are clean and free of contamination.
- Connect the coupler onto the fitting on an angle to save the surface of the fitting and jaws of the coupler.
- Empty the grease cartridge into the reservoir and repeat until full.
- Disconnect the coupler from the fitting, again on an angle to minimize wear on the fitting and the coupler.



**WARNING! – If the grease fitting on the reservoir and the coupler on the hose end of the grease gun are not clean, any contamination could be pushed into the reservoir and lead to system failure.**

### 3. Air Operated Grease Drum Pump

This is the ideal option when a source of compressed air and an air hose are available. It typically includes a 50:1 ratio air-operated pump mounted securely on any original 25-50 lb. refinery container, and a hose connecting to a high-pressure control valve.

#### **With an Air Operated Grease Drum Pump, follow these steps:**

- The control valve will connect to the grease fitting on the reservoir in exactly the same way as the grease gun method.
- Make sure the grease fitting on the reservoir and the coupler on the control valve are clean.
- Connect the control valve onto the fitting on an angle to minimize wear on the fitting and the coupler.
- Press the trigger to pump grease into the reservoir.
- Disconnect the coupler from the fitting, again on an angle to minimize wear on the fitting and the coupler.
- Disconnect the air pressure line from the pump.



**WARNING! – Even after you disconnect the air line, there is still pressure in the grease hose and the control valve, so always make sure to bleed that pressure back into the drum or another container.**

For video demonstration of these three filling alternatives, check out our How-to video on YouTube: [FLO Lube Tip - How to properly fill a grease reservoir on an automatic greasing system.](#)

Should you have any questions about filling your grease reservoir, the lube solutions experts at FLO Components are just a phone call away at 1.800.668.5458.

*For Total Lube Solutions,*  
**GO WITH THE FLO!**

**FLO Components Ltd.,** 50 Admiral Blvd., Mississauga, ON, L5T 2W1  
1.800.668.5458 • sales@flocomponents.com • www.flocomponents.com • Winnipeg: 204.832.3040