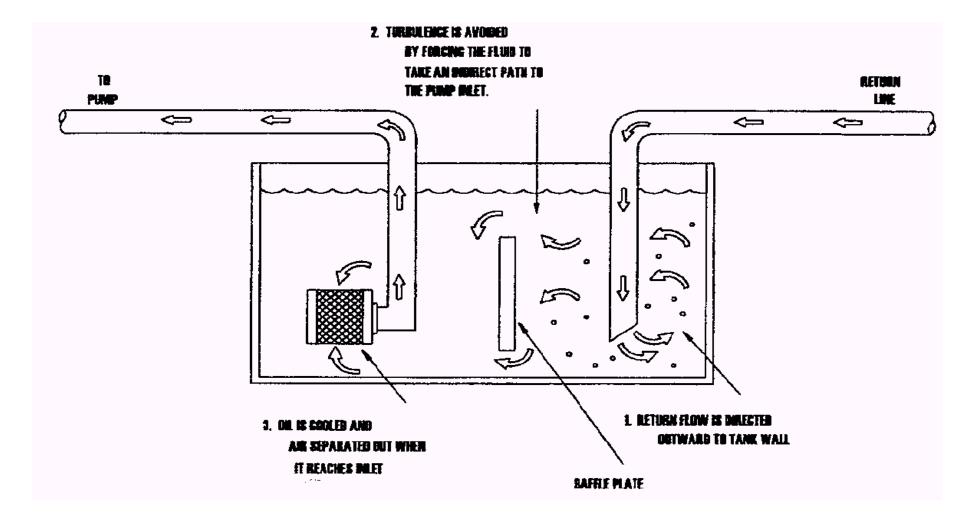
Reservoirs



Reservoirs **Heat Exchange** Sedimentation **Deaeration Dehydration Alternative Devices Reservoir Construction Breathers Strainers** Pump Inlet and Return Lines Tanks of Mobile Hydraulic Equipment Pressurized Tank Vented Tank

Reservoirs

To most of us, **Reservoir**, see **Fig.1**, is simply A **Tank** in which to **Store Hydraulic Fluid**.

Fluid Flows from the Reservoir to the Pump,

Circulates through the System

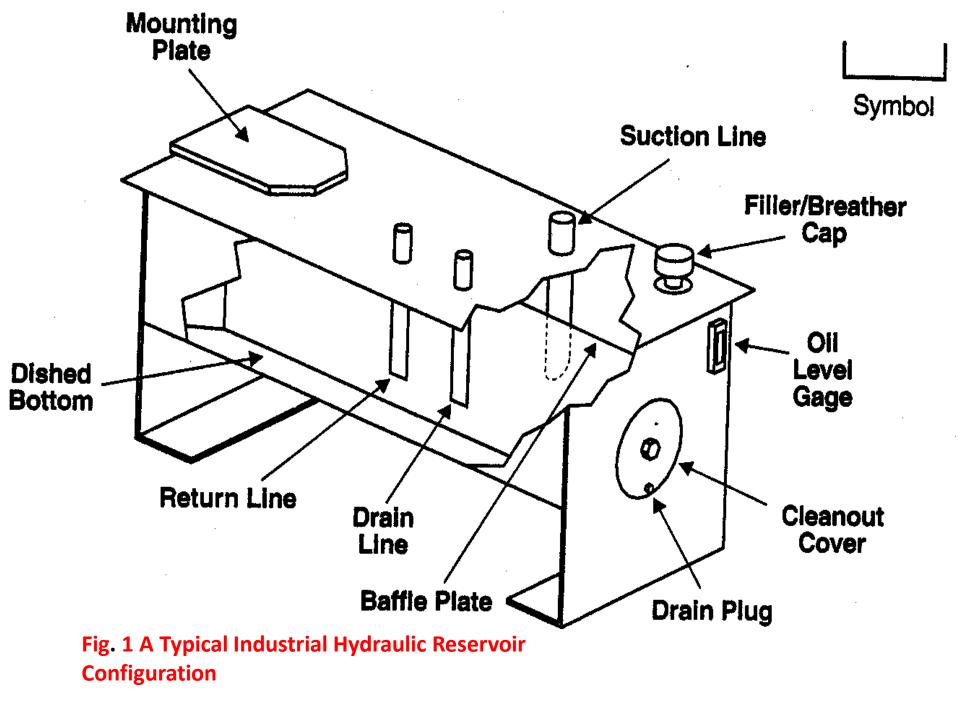
and Returns to the Tank.

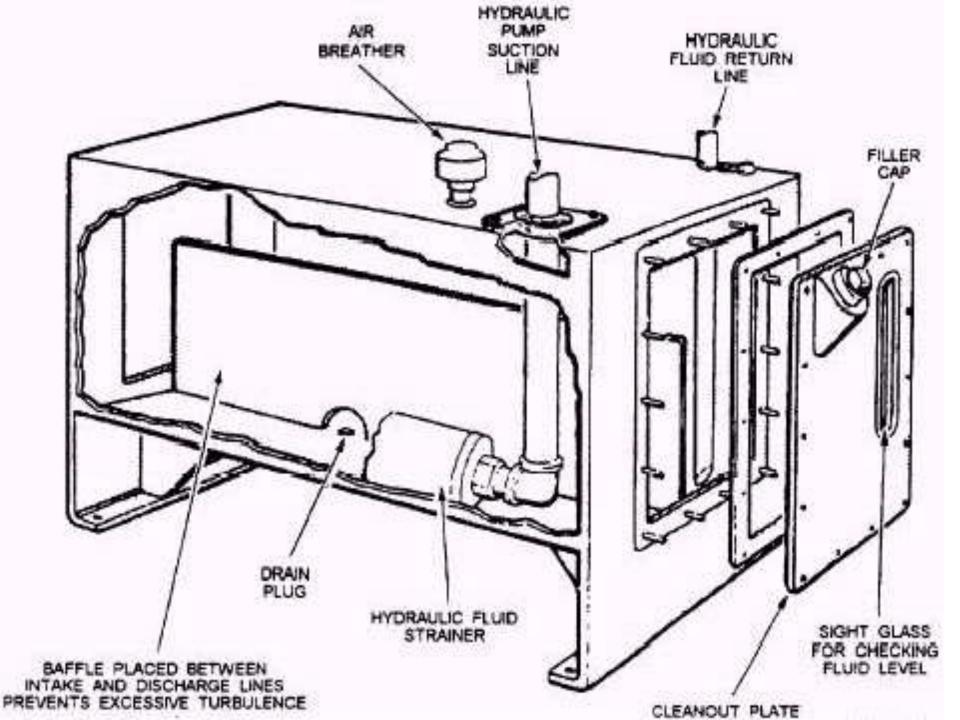
Reservoir actually plays several <u>Major Roles</u>, including:

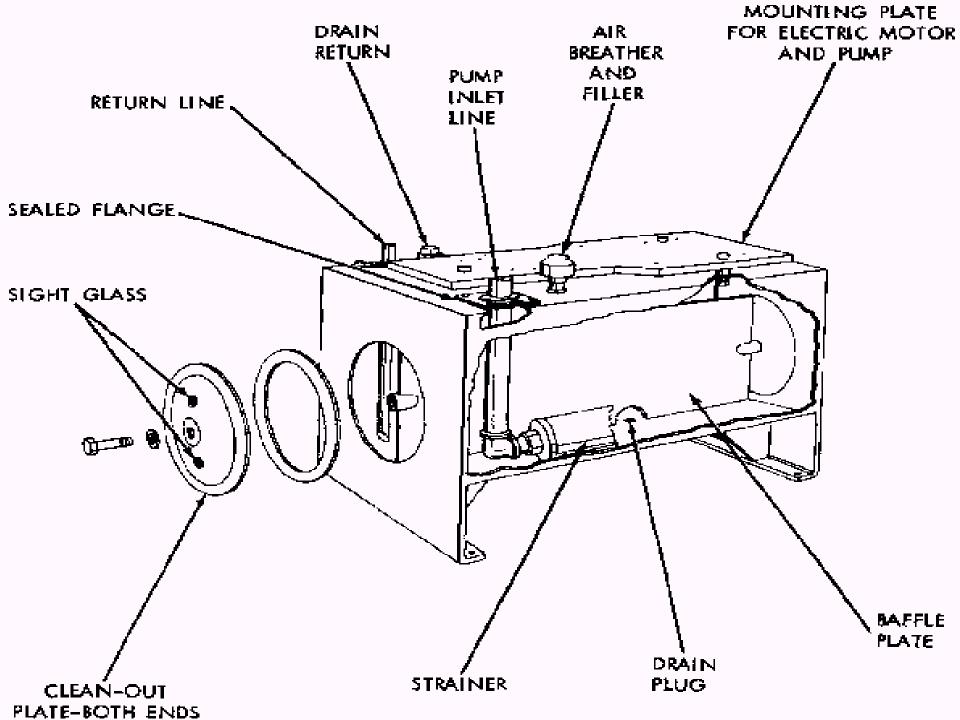
- <u>Heat Exchanger</u> (To Cool the Fluid).
- Filter (To Remove Solid Particles).
- Deaerator (To Remove Air and Gases).
- **Dehydrator** (To **Remove Water**).

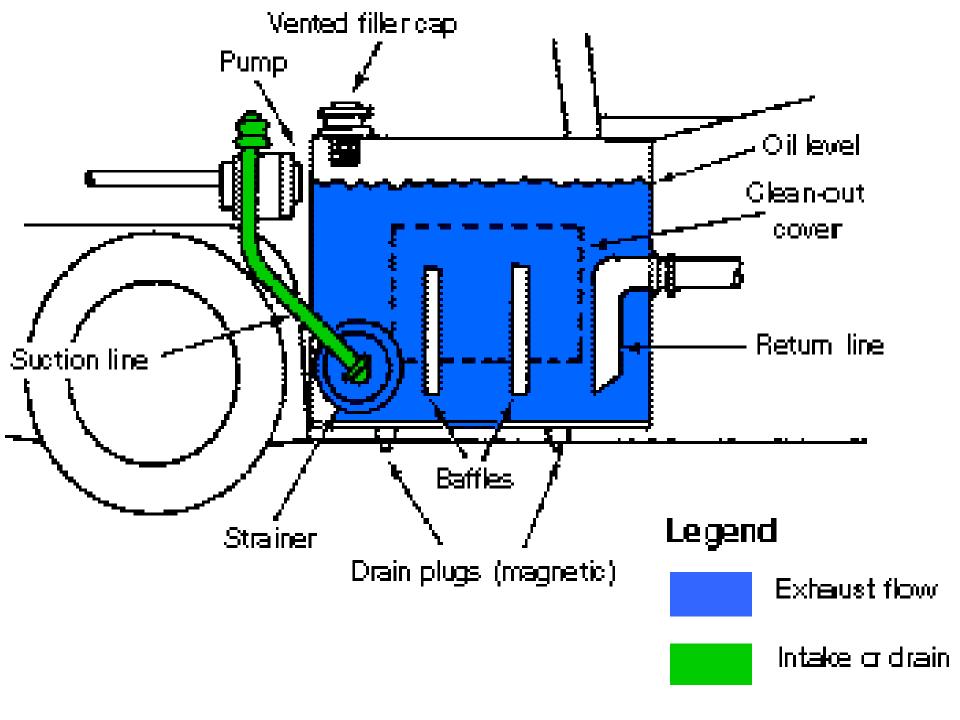
Holding Fluid is only one of a Reservoir's Roles,

and it may <u>Not</u> be the Most Important One, depending on the System Design









Heat Exchange

Energy Put into **Hydraulic Fluid** that **Do Not Subsequently Remove** in the form of **Useful Work** is **Manifested** in the **form** of **Heat** When **We encounter** a **Pressure Drop** across a **Valve** (or any other device) We encounter an increase in Fluid Temperature. If we **don't Dissipate** that **Heat** somewhere in the **System**, we end up with An ever **Increasing Temperature** that will eventually lead to An Unacceptable Loss of Viscosity, and eventually to A Complete Chemical Breakdown of the Fluid We could use a **Heat Exchanger** specifically designed for this purpose. **Another Way** to get rid of Unwanted Heat is through the Reservoir Walls The **System** should be **Designed** to **Prevent** the **Losses** that lead to **Temperature Rise**, **But Some Losses** are **inevitable**, and we must **Design** our **Systems** to deal with the **Resultant Temperature Rises**. The **Dissipation** of **Heat** from the **Fluid** in the **Reservoir** results

All 3 Heat Exchanger Mechanisms:

Convection,

Conduction,

Radiation.

Heat Exchanger by <u>C</u>onvection requires a Significant Circulation or Movement of the Liquid through the Regions of Different Temperatures. Convection may be Natural or Forced.

Natural Convection occurs because Warmer Fluid is

Less Dense and Rises and is Replaced by Cooler Fluid next to the Wall. Forced Circulation results when a Pump (or Fan or Blower in case of Air) is used to Move the Fluid.

Conduction is a Heat Exchanger Mechanism that occurs on A Molecular Level within the Liquid or Gas

It is the result of **Collisions** or **Intimate Contact** between the **Molecules**. **Thermal <u>Radiation</u> is the Transfer** of **Heat** by means of

Electromagnetic Radiation.

The Amount of Heat Radiated depends on

The **Configuration** of the **Surface**,

The **Surface Temperature**, and

The Material and Finish of the Surface

By a **Combination** of These Mechanisms, Heat passes

From the **Fluid** into the **Tank Walls** and then into the **Atmosphere** The **Efficiency** of this **Operation** depends on:

The Total Surface Area exposed to the Atmosphere and The Length of Time that the Fluid Remains in the Reservoir. The Rate at which Heat is transferred from a surface is measured in British Thermal Units per square foot per hour, or Watts per square meter (W/m²).

The Larger the Reservoir,

The More square feet of Surface Area there are for Heat Dissipation. The Effectiveness of the Heat Transfer is also enhanced by Direct Contact of the Fluid with the Walls of the Tank. The Transfer of Heat from the Fluid to the Dissipating Surfaces is Not Instantaneous. The Fluid must be allowed to Remain in contact with the Walls For as long as Possible This is a Function of the Length of Time the fluid remains in the Reservoir Termed <u>Dwell or Residence Time</u> In order to Increase Dwell Time, many Reservoirs are Built with A Series of <u>Baffles</u> around which the Fluid must Travel. The Tortuous Path provided by these Baffles Prevents the Fluid From Traveling Directly from the Return Line to the Pump Inlet Line. It Also Promotes Mixing of the Fluid, which Improves The Heat Transfer Situation.

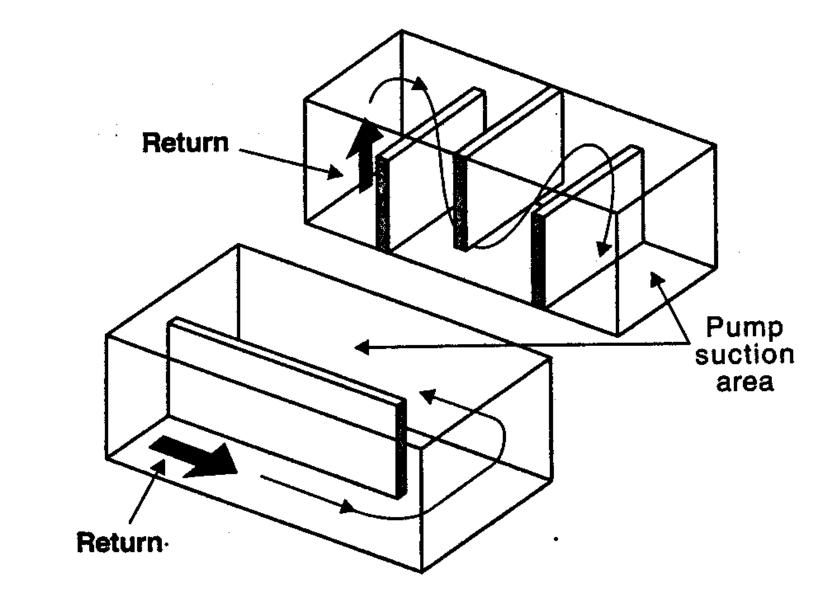


Fig. 2 Baffles increase Dwell Time.

An **Oversized Reservoir** offers another **Advantage** in that There is simply **Much More Fluid**, so that The Average Bulk Fluid Temperature increases at a much Lower Rate than it would with a **Smaller Quantity** of **Fluid**. This, coupled with the **Increased Surface Area** and the Lower Turnover Rate of the Fluid leads to Much Lower Overall Temperatures What constitutes this –**Oversized-** Reservoir. Most System Specifications call for the Reservoir to contain Three Times the Pump Flow Rate. The **Mobile Equipment** Industry tends to use a **1 to 1 Ratio**. **Other Requirements Vary** according to **Application**. An **Oversized Reservoir** might be on the order of **10 to 1 10 gallons** of **Fluid** for **Each gpm** of **Output**. To Determine Whether the Reservoir has Sufficient Surface Area to **Dissipate** the **Heat** generated by the **System Operations**

We can **Compare** The **Heat Generation Rate** of the **System** to The **Heat Dissipation Rate** of the **Reservoir**.

Otherwise, you Lose Twice:

You pay for the Wasted Energy to Put the Heat in, and

You pay for the Heat Exchanger and its Operation to Take the Heat Out. <u>Another Heat Exchange Function</u> that might take place in the Reservoir is The <u>Reverse</u> of what we have just been discussing.

That is, we might want to **Heat** the **Fluid** rather than **Cool it**.

This Situation could arise During the <u>Startup</u> of a System that has been exposed to Low Temperatures for an Extended Time.

The Cold Fluid may Not be Pumpable, so

It may be necessary to Heat it to Lower its Viscosity.

This is usually <u>Accomplished By</u>

Electrical Heating Elements immersed in the Fluid, In some Very Large Plant Installations, Steam or Hot Water Pipes are sometimes Run through the Tank. If Electric Heaters are Used, Care must be taken <u>Not to "Cook" the Fluid</u> that contacts the Heating Elements. This <u>Results in</u> Degradation of the Fluid and The Creation of a Coating of Burned Fluid on the Elements that Severely Reduces their Heating Efficiency. <u>As a Rule of Thumb</u>,

The Heat Output of in Tank Heating Elements should <u>Not Exceed 3 watts per square inch</u> of Heating Element Surface.

Sedimentation

A **Reservoir** acts as a **Filter** when **Solid Particles** are allowed to **Settle** to the **Bottom** as the fluid passes through. Not All of the Particles will Settle Out of the Fluid, even if It remains at **Rest** over very long periods of time. For Settling to Occur, the Force of Gravity must Overcome **Buoyant Forces** and Viscous Drag **Relatively Large**, **Dense Particles** will tend to **Settle Out Rapidly**, While Small Particles (Smaller than 10 microns) may Never Settle Out, especially in a high-viscosity fluid. The **Longer** the **Dwell Time** of the **Fluid** in the **Reservoir**, The **More Opportunity** there is for **Particle Drop-Out**. This constitutes another factor **Favoring Oversized Reservoirs**. **Good Filtration** (internal and external) should **Remove** the **Large Particles** Before they **get** to the **Reservoir** An Off-Line Filter Loop will do far more to Clean the Fluid in the Reservoir than **Sedimentation** could ever do.

Deaeration

Reservoirs that are at Atmospheric Pressure provide an opportunity for Deaeration, the Release of Air that may have been Trapped in the Fluid. Air in Fluids may take Three Different Forms: Dissolved Entrained Free Most Hydraulic Oils will contain about 10% Air by Volume Under Atmospheric Pressure

This <u>Dissolved</u> Air is Contained in the "Empty Spaces" between The Fluid Molecules,

and **Does Not increase** the **Volume** of the **Fluid**.

As we **Exceed** the **Amount** of **Air** that can be **Dissolved** in a **Fluid**,

We begin to Encounter Entrained Air.

We see this in the form of **Bubbles** which are

0.001 to 0.030 in (25 to 750 μm) in Diameter.

Fluids with Entrained Air tend to Look Cloudy or Foamy.

Generally, Entrained Air is Attempting to Get Out of the Fluid. If the Fluid is allowed to Sit Undisturbed for a Time, the Bubbles Will usually **Agglomerate** into **Larger Bubbles** of **Free Air**, **Rise** to the **Surface** and **Escape**. Most modern Hydraulic Fluids contain Antifoaming Additives To help in Releasing the Air from the Fluid. The **Smaller** the **Bubble**, the **Longer** it **takes** to **Rise** to the **Surface** in any given Fluid. The **Rise Rate** is also **Inversely Proportional** to the **Viscosity** of the **Fluid**; The **More Viscous** the **Fluid**, the **Longer** it will take any given **Bubble** to **Rise** to the **Surface**. Some Finite Amount of Time is Required to Allow Air Bubbles to **Escape** from the **Oil**. A More Efficient Deaeration Process will be realized If the Fluid Flows through the **Reservoir Slowly**. In an Undersized Reservoir, or in one that is Not Adequately Baffled.

Bubbles in the Oil can be Swept Back into the Pump inlet line before They can Rise to the Surface.

This can lead to Pump Damage and eventual Failure due to Pseudo-Cavitation-a Process in which Collapsing Air Bubbles Allow High-Velocity Fluid to impinge on Pump Surfaces.
The Result is that Metal Particles are Dislodged, Contaminating the Fluid and Destroying Critical Pump Clearances.
Free Air is seen as Large "Globs" of Air in the System.

This **Condition** is most commonly found in

Cylinders, Accumulators, and Elevated Points in the System where the Fluid Velocity is Low enough for Entrained Air Bubbles to Agglomerate and form Large Air Pockets. While Dissolved Air is Expected and generally Acceptable,

in any form can have **Detrimental Effects** in the System.

Fluid Oxidation phenomenon requires Oxygen-

The **presence** of **Air** in any form will **suffice**.

The Advantages of Using Liquids instead of Gases: **Incompressibility** of **Liquids** is **Lost** with **Highly Aerated Fluids**. Fluid Column Stiffness is lost because Air in the Fluid is Compressible and Must be Compressed before Any Other Work can be Done. This **Causes System Response** to be **Slow**. Aerated Fluid causes Pseudo-Cavitation in Pumps, Valves. This can Cause Severe Damage and Rapidly Degrade the Components to Absolute Uselessness. In a **Reservoir** that is **Open** to **Atmospheric Pressure**, We can **Remove Only** the **Entrained** and **Free Air**. If the **Reservoir** is **Pressurized**, the **release** of **Air** will be restricted by The Henry-Dalton Law:

"The Amount of Air that can be Dissolved in a Fluid is Directly Proportional to the Air Pressure above the Fluid" <u>Creating a Vacuum</u> in the Reservoir will Significantly Accelerate the Release of Free and Entrained Air and Promote the Dissolution of the Dissolved Air. An Advantage of this practice is that the Fluid can act as an Air "Sponge"

Readily Absorbing Any Air that might be **Bleeding** into the **System**

or Introduced by Bad Maintenance

Practices.

<u>Reservoir Vacuum</u> is **seldom** seen in other than **Laboratory Situations**,

It is more **Expensive** and **Troublesome** than **Breathing Reservoirs**.

<u>Reservoir Vacuum</u> could also be **Detrimental**

and could lead to Pump

Cavitation.

A **Design** that is sometimes seen, is a **Reservoir Containing** A **<u>Sloped Screen</u>** through which the **Fluid Flows** as it **Moves** from the **Return Line** to the **Pump Inlet Line**. Bubbles tend to Adhere to the Screen and thus be **Removed** from the **Flow Stream**. Eventually, They Agglomerate, Forming Large Bubbles that **Rise** to the **Surface** and **Dissipate**. The **Most Effective Arrangement** seems to be Number 100 to Number 400 Wire Mesh **Inclined** about **20 degrees** to the **Horizontal**. Removal Efficiencies in excess of 95% have been Experienced, But again, **Dwell Time** is **Very Important**.

Dehydration

During Periods of System Downtime, When the Fluid is standing in the Reservoir, Water in Fluids that are Less Dense than Water will tend to Separate from the Oil and Settle to the Bottom where it can be Drained off. This Separation will Occur only if

The Water and Oil have Not been Emulsified.

As with the Separation of Air from the Oil, The Separation of Water is Not Instantaneous. Little Separation is likely to Occur as long as the Fluid is moving through the Reservoir unless very Large amounts of Water are Present.

Alternative Devices

Some of the Functions discussed are Performed Efficiently by the **Reservoir**. The Large Surface Area of the Reservoir Walls (especially one that is Intentionally Oversized) Dissipate Heat Efficiently, Although the **Efficiency** is **Severely Reduced** on **Hot**, **Still Days Deaeration** is also **Accomplished fairly Efficiently**, especially in Large Reservoirs with Long Fluid Dwell Times. This **Function** is normally **Restricted** by the fact that The **Reservoir** is usually at **Atmospheric Pressure**, or **Higher**, so that **None** of the **Dissolved Air** is **Removed**. The **Percentage** of **Free** and **Entrained Air Removed** is A Strong Function of the Fluid Dwell Time. **Other Devices** can **Perform** these **Functions** More **Efficiently** than The **Reservoir**. A great deal of **Dirt** ends up upon the **Bottom** of the **Tank** Good Filters perform this Function far More Efficiently.

<u>Water Removal</u> is another function that can be performed More Efficiently by Devices Specifically Designed for that Purpose.

Water Separator Removes Water from the Oil Continuously,

while the **System** is **Operating**.

It does Not Require Quiescent Fluid to be Effective, and the Water is Removed in an Active rather than Passive Operation

Heat Exchangers, while viewed by some as

Unnecessary when Large Reservoirs are Used,

can be **Utilized Very Effectively**.

Sometimes, the **Bulk** or **Weight** of an **Oversized Reservoir** is **Undesirable**. The **Thermal Demands** of the **System** may **Require**

a Heat Exchanger in Some Cases

Air-Oil Separators, or Deaerators, offer some Advantages

Over Reservoirs in the Removal of Air from the Fluid .

One such **Device** the **Separate Air Utilizes** a **Vacuum Arrangement**

To Remove a Significant Amount of

From **Operating Fluid**

Systems

Dissolved Air

While this may <u>Not be Necessary</u> in Normal Industrial Systems,

It can be <u>Very Important</u> in Applications such as

Aircraft Flight Control Systems,

where

Sluggish or Spongy Operation could Mean

Disaster

Reservoir Construction

Figure 1 depicts a Standard Industrial Reservoir along

The Lines Recommended by the Joint Industrial Conference (JIC).

Some of the Features we have already mentioned can be seen in this drawing; for instance, the Baffle

Plate.

In this **Design**, a <u>Single Plate</u> runs the Length of the Tank. There is a <u>Drain Plug</u> in the Bottom that can be used To Drain off Settled Water

as well as To Empty the entire

Reservoir.

Both Ends contain Plates that can be Removed

to Facilitate Cleaning the entire

Tank.

Notice that the Tank is <u>Standing well Clear of the Floor</u> to allow Air Circulation to Enhance Heat

Transfer

Breathers

A Breather Reservoir is intended for Industrial Applications and operates at Atmospheric Pressure. It gets its **Name** from the fact that It Inhales and Exhales the Fluid level changes due to System **Operation**. **Atmospheric Dirt** is one of the **Major Sources** of **Fluid Contamination**. Good Filtration should be Provided to Clean the Incoming Air. In addition to the **<u>Removal</u>** of <u>Airborne Dirt</u>, some Breathers are **Designed** to **Remove** the **Moisture** from **Incoming Air**. These **Desiccant Breathers** contain both a **Particulate Filter** and a Water-Absorbent Agent that **Extracts Water Vapor** from **Air** as it is drawn into the

unit.

An Alternative Method of Preventing the Ingression of Dirt and Moisture is to **Prevent** the **inhaling** of **Atmospheric Air**. This can be done with a so-called **Pressurized Breather**, which contains A Vacuum Breaker to allow an initial influx of Air When the System is First Started up and Fluid is Pulled from the Reservoir. In subsequent operation, as **Fluid Returns** to the **Tank**, A Relief Valve prevents the Air from being Expelled from the Tank. Rather, it is Compressed and will be Exhausted Only If The **Relief Valve Setting** (from **3** to as much as **25 psig**) is **Exceeded**. **Caution** must be used **When Adding** a **Pressurized Breather** To an **Existing Reservoir** to ensure that The Tank Structure can Withstand the Internal Pressure. The **Ideal Situation**, would be to **use** a **Completely Sealed Reservoir** that has **No Communication** with the **Environment**. **Unfortunately**, this is **Seldom Done** because of the **Expense** and **Weight** involved in **Providing Sufficient Strength** To withstand the Internal Pressures that might result.

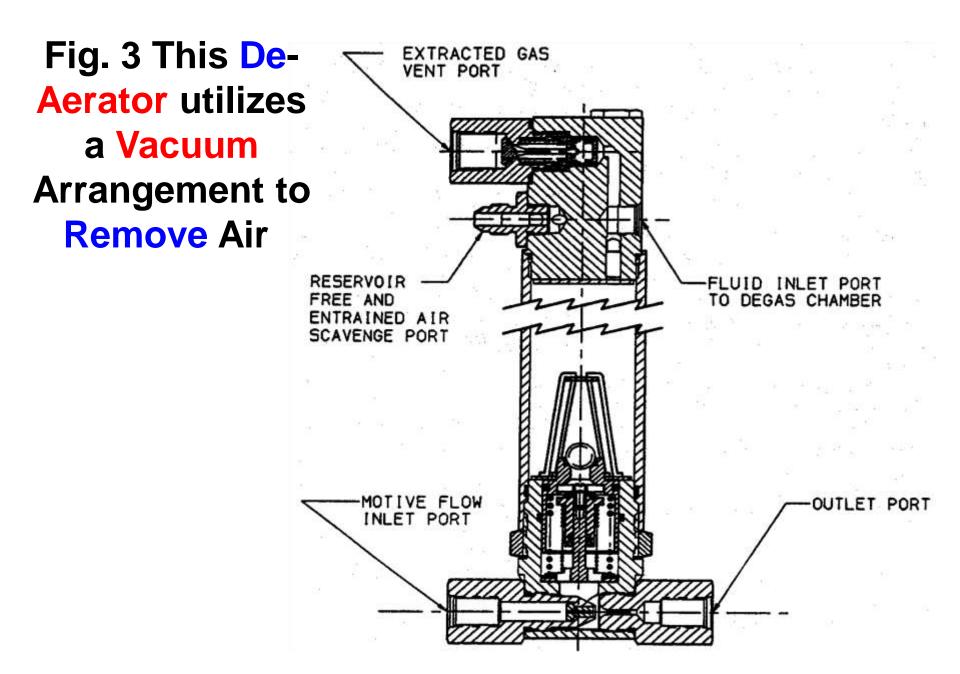
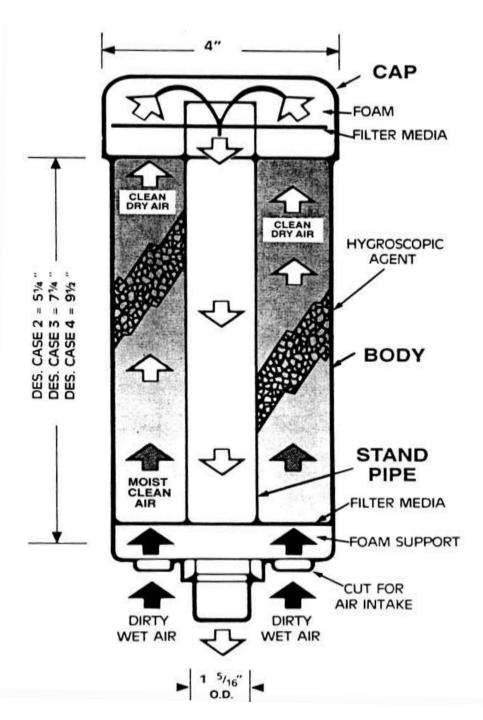


Fig. 4 A Dessicant Breather Removes Moisture <u>as well as Dirt from</u> Incoming Air



Strainers

A Strainer is often attached to the Pump Inlet Line.

These are necessarily very Coarse Elements,

Seldom providing better than 150 micron Filtration

Their Main Purpose is to

Prevent Trash in the Reservoir from Finding its Way into the Pump. Two Very Important Points must be Remembered:

First, the Strainer should always be Covered by at least 3 inches of fluid.

A Vortex could form that would allow Air to be pulled into the pump.

Second, these Strainers must be Changed Periodically.

If they are allowed to Clog up, they can Severely Restrict

The **Fluid Flow** to the **Pump**, resulting in **Pump Cavitation**.

The **Reservoir Design** must **accommodate** the **Maintenance Task** of **Changing** the **Strainer**.

Pump Inlet

and Return Lines

The Locations of the Pump Inlet Line and the system Return Line (and any other lines bringing fluid into the tank) can be Critical in the Ability of the Tank to Perform All the Jobs that are thrust upon it. The Fluid Dwell Time is Very Important. We should Arrange the Inlet and Return Lines to provide The **Longest** and **Most** tortuous **Path Possible**. **They** should be at **Opposite Ends** of the **Tank** or On The **Same End** But on the **Opposite Sides** of a **Longitudinal Baffle**. The **Pump Inlet Line** must be **Near**, But **Never On** the **Bottom** of the **Tank**. If it were on the Bottom, Dirt that has Settled Out of the fluid might be **Picked Up** when the **Pump Starts**. Return Lines must always be **Below** the **Surface** of the Fluid,

Preferably Extending to Near the Bottom of the Tank.

A Diffuser on the End of the Return Line will Promote the Release of Air and Generate Mixing of the Returning Fluid with that in the Tank To aid in Heat Transfer

Very often (but not always), the **Top** of the **Reservoir** will be a **Heavy Cover** That is **Bolted** to the **Side Walls** is very common for

The **Pump** and **Drive Motor**, **Some Valves**, the **Filters**, and so on, to be **mounted** on this **Cover**.

A Good Gasket provided for the Cover

to **Prevent** the **Entrance** of **Atmospheric Air**.

The **Cover** kept on the **Reservoir** and **Bolted** down **Securely**

to Maintain the Integrity of that Gasket.

The **Door** is **Opened** for **Major Contamination Problems**.

Reservoir shown in **Fig. 1** is **Only One** of a **Multitude** of **Possible Designs**

- <u>Figure 5</u> shows other designs commonly found in **Industrial Applications**.
- There is **No** such thing as a **common Reservoir Design** for

Mobile Applications.

In Aircraft, Tractors, and Other Mobile Equipment, Reservoirs are

Put Wherever They can be Fit

in **Conveniently**

and the Space

Available dictates the Shape

Conventional

Overhead

L-Shaped

Fig. 5 Industrial Reservoir Configurations

Tanks of Mobile Hydraulic Equipment

The Hydraulic Oil tank Main Function is To Store Oil, However, it has some Other Functions as well. The Tank must: Remove Heat Separate Air from the Oil. Tanks must have: Sufficient Strength, Adequate Capacity Keep Dirt Out. Hydraulic Tanks are usually but not always Sealed.

Tank Components are:

Fill Cap: Keeps Contaminants Out of the Opening that's Used to Fill and Add Oil to the Tank and Seals Pressurized Tanks. Sight Glass: Used to Check the Oil Level.

The **Oil Level** should be **Checked** When the **Oil** is **Cold**.

The **Oil Level** is usually **Correct** When the **Oil** is in

The **Middle** of the **Sight Glass**.

Supply and Return Lines:

The Supply Line allows Oil to flow from the Tank to the System. The Return Line allows Oil to flow from the System to the Tank. Drain: Located at the Lowest Point in the Tank,

The **Drain** is used to **Remove Old Oil** from the **Tank**.

The **Drain** also allows for the **Removal** of **Water** and **Sediment** from the **Oil**

Pressurized Tank

The Two Main Types of Hydraulic Tanks are Pressurized and Vented (Unpressurized). The Pressurized Tank is Completely Sealed. Atmospheric Pressure does Not Effect the Pressure in the Tank. When the Oil is sent through the System, it absorbs Heat and Expands. The Expanding Oil Compresses the Air in the Tank. The Compressed Air Forces the oil out of the Tank and into the System. The Vacuum Relief Valve serves Two Purposes.

It Prevents a Vacuum and Limits the Maximum Pressure in the Tank. The Vacuum Relief Valve Prevents a Vacuum by Opening and Allowing air to enter the Tank When the Tank Pressure drops to 3.45 kPa (0.5psi)

When Pressure in the Tank reaches the Vacuum Relief Valve Pressure setting, The Valve Opens and Vents compressed Air to the Atmosphere.

The Vacuum Relief Valve Setting may Vary from 70 kPa (10 psi) to 207 kPa (30 psi).

Other Tank Components are:

Filler Screen: Keeps Large Contaminants from Entering the Tank When the Fill Cap is Removed.

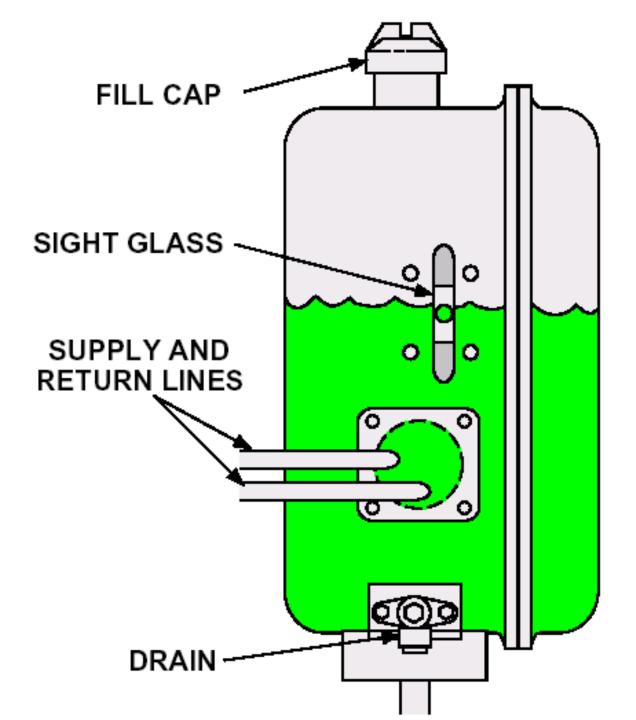
Filler Tube: Allows the Tank to be Filled to the Correct Level, But Not Over Filled.

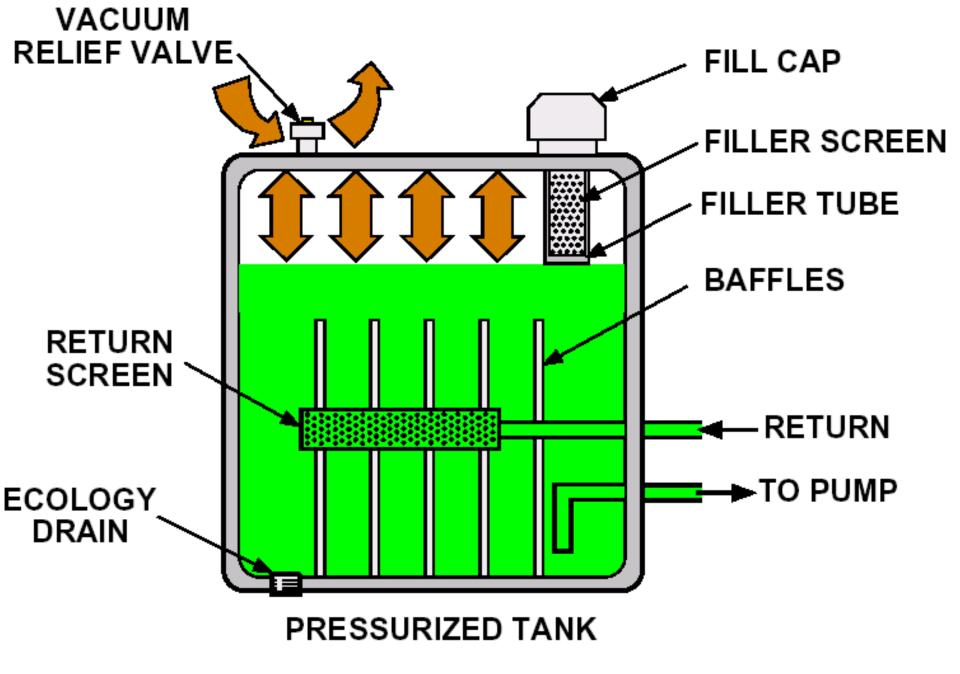
 Baffles: Prevents the Return Oil from flowing Directly to the Tank Outlet Allowing Time for Bubbles in the Return Oil to Rise to the Top.

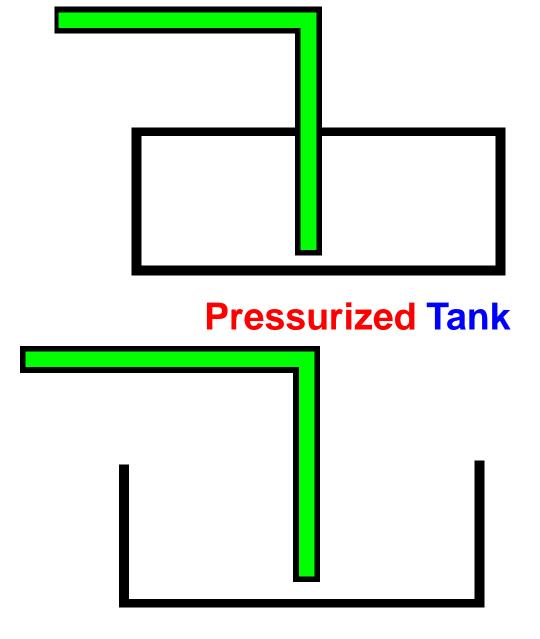
 Also, Prevents the oil from sloshing which helps reduce Forming of the oil.

 Ecology Drain:
 Used to Prevent Accidental Spills when Removing Water and Sediment from the Tank.

 Return Screen:
 Prevents Larger Particles from Entering the Tank, But does Not Provide Fine Filtering







Vented Tank

Vented Tank

The Vented or Un-Pressurized Tank Differs from the Pressurized Tank

in that the Vented Tank has a Breather.

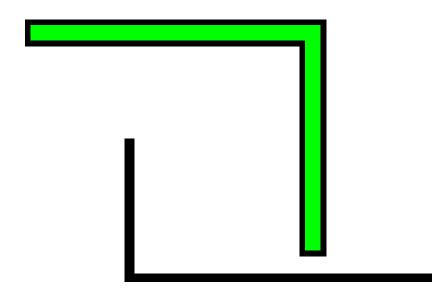
The Breather allows Air to Enter and Exit Freely.

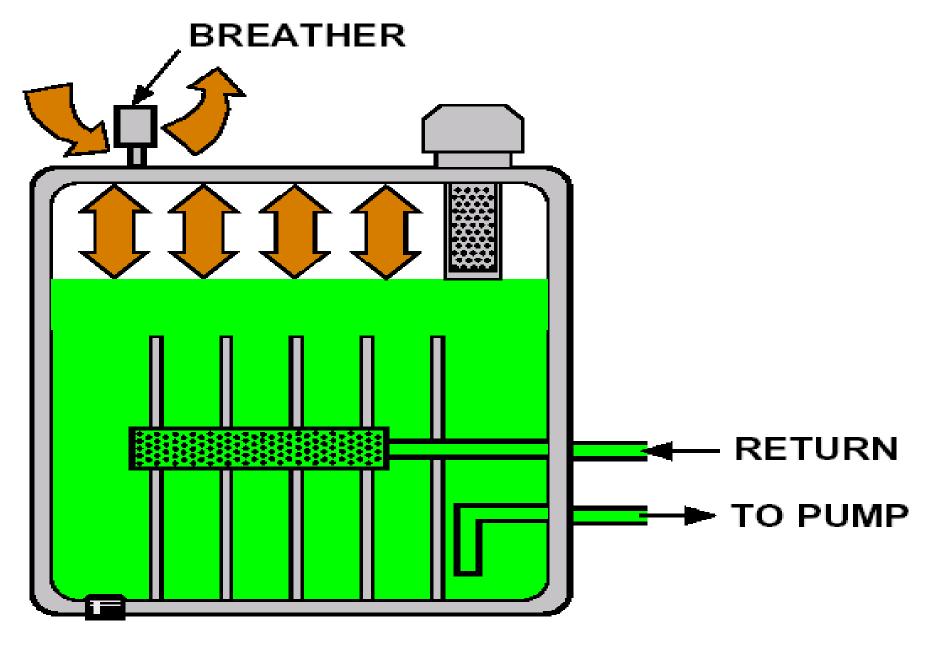
Atmospheric Pressure on the Top of the Oil

Forces the Oil Out of the Tank and into the System

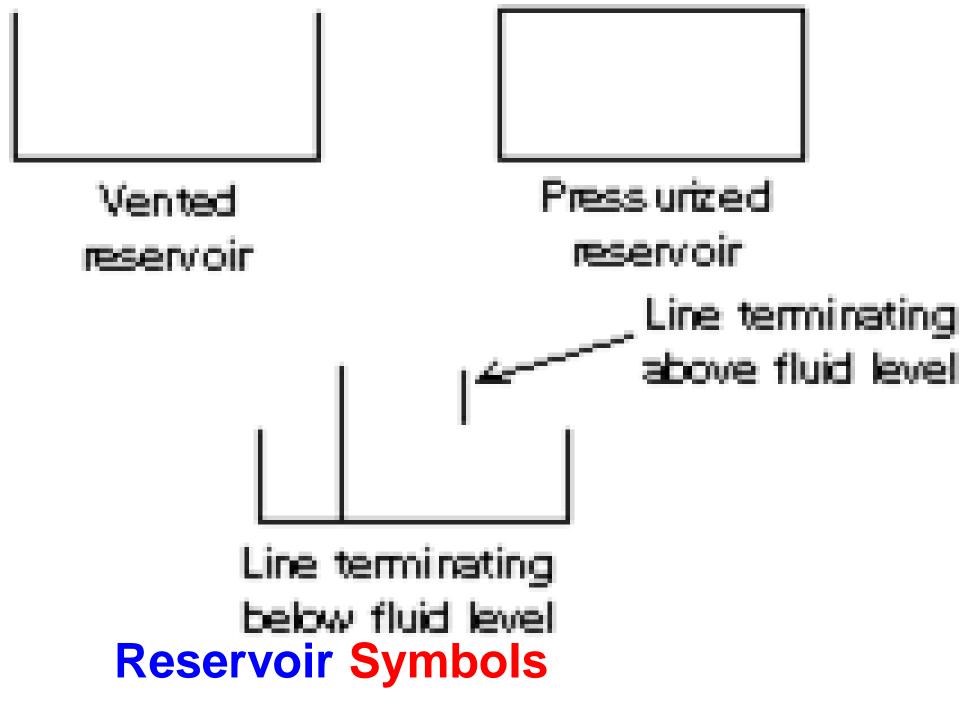
The Breather has a Screen that Prevents Dirt from Entering the Tank.

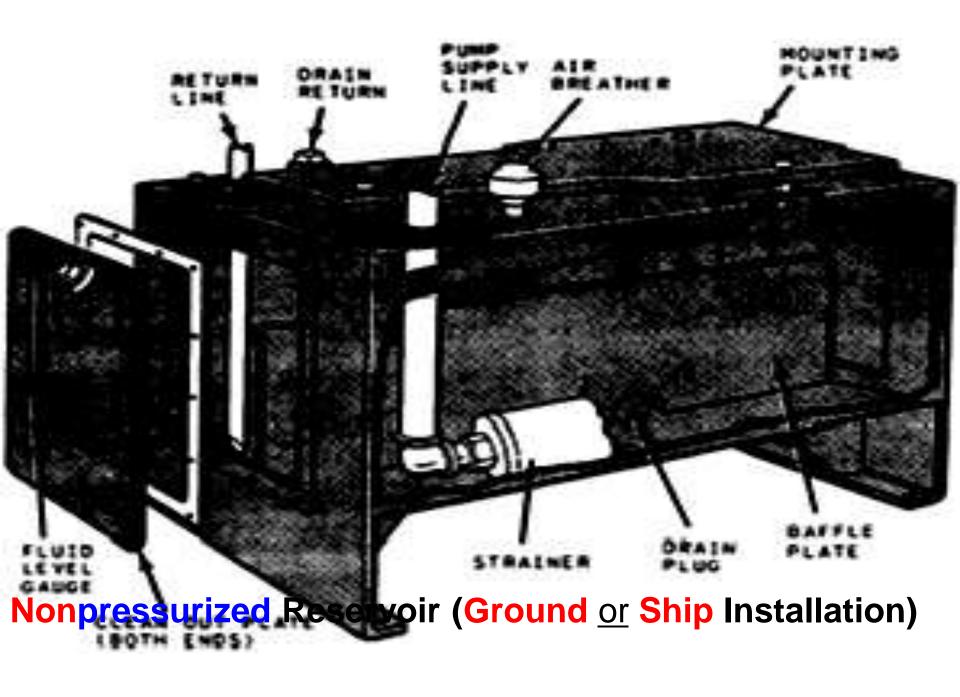
Vented Tank

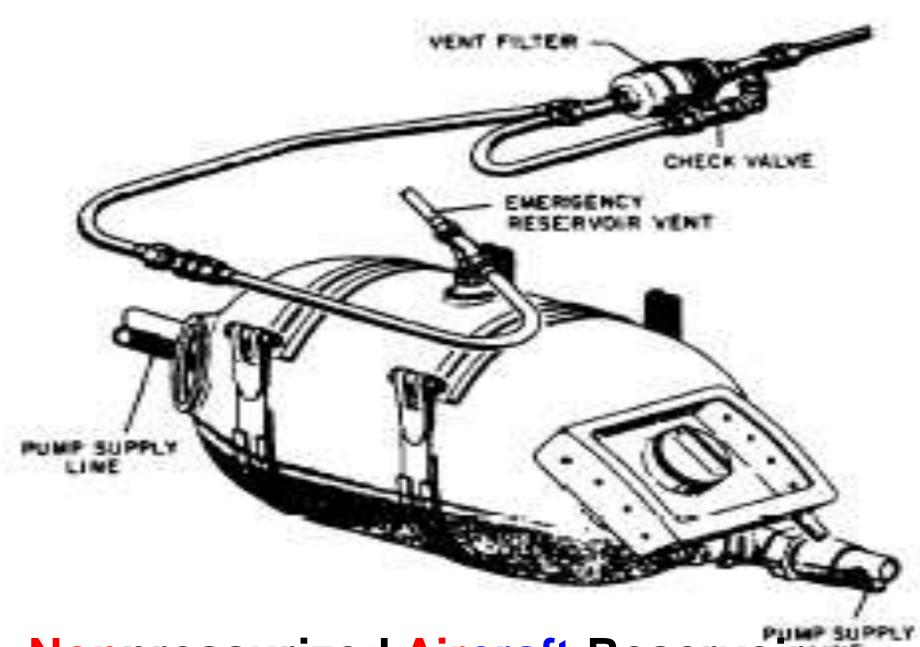




VENTED TANK

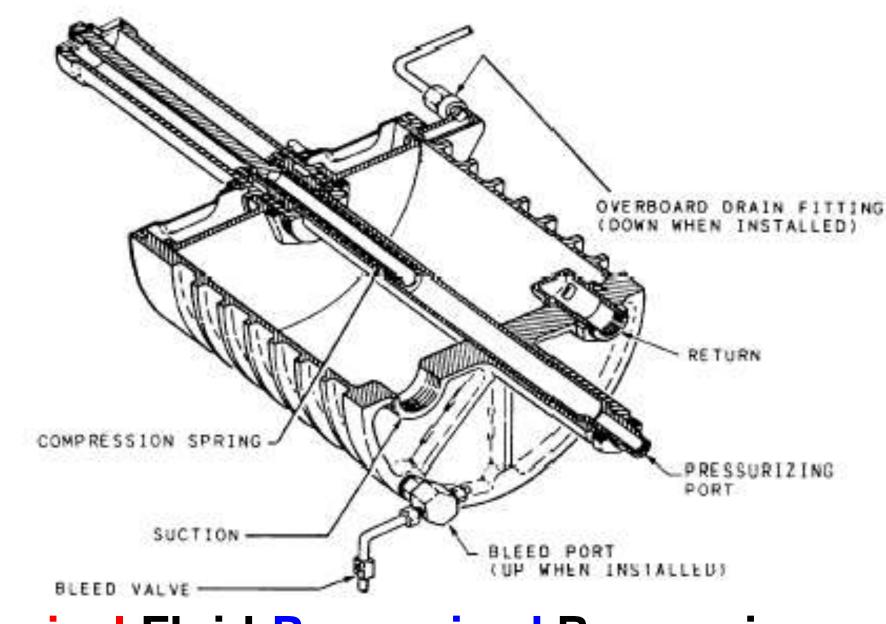


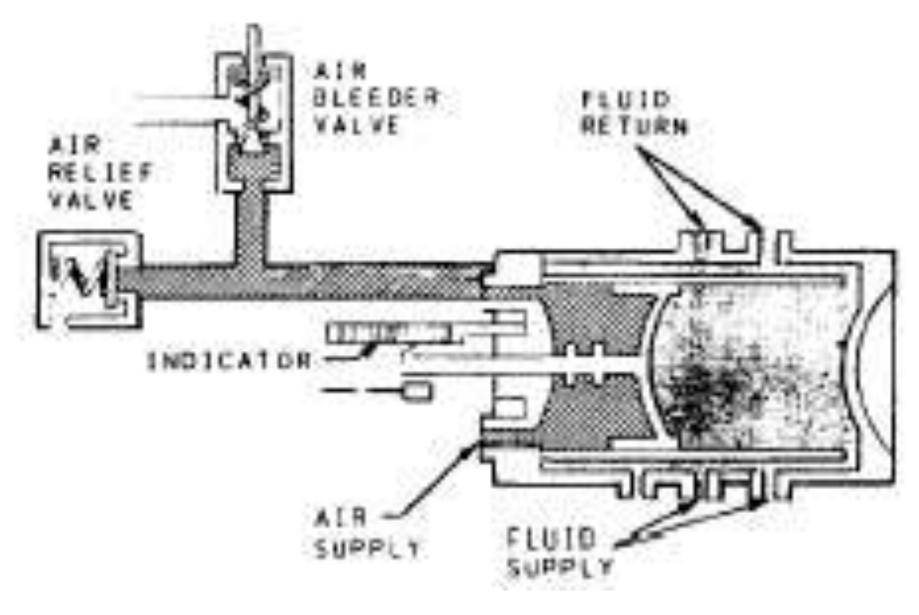




Nonpressurized Aircraft Reservoir

Typical Fluid-Pressurized Reservoir





Air-Pressurized Reservoir