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Shut off the power to keep yourself safe. Working on a pressure switch thats still connected to power is extremely dangerous. Either turn off the breaker or disconnect the power before getting started.[1] Advertisement Loosen the nut on the cover to remove it. Look for the cover of the pressure switch, which is usually a small black or gray cube made of plastic. Loosen the nut with a wrench or untwist it by hand, then lift the cover straight up.[2] The PSI range is usually listed on the wells inside cover. Most pumps come with a factory set range of PSI. Turn the cover over and look on the label inside to see what the range of your pump is.[3][4]Most well pumps have a range of 30 to 50 PSI, meaning they turn on at 30 PSI and turn off at 50 PSI.If you have a submersible pump, it will probably be set to 40 - 60.Some smaller jet pumps are set to 20 - 40 .These ranges are also sometimes called the cut-in and cut-out pressures, meaning the pump will cut-in (turn on) at the bottom of the range and cut-out (turn off) at the top of the range. Advertisement Raise or lower the PSI with the center nut. Take a look at the pressure switch: you'll notice 2 separate nuts. The larger, center nut adjusts the range of PSI, meaning where it starts and where it ends. This is usually the nut you'll be working with to adjust the pressure of your pump.[5]For instance, if your pump is set to 30 - 50, you could use the center nut to raise it to 35 - 55. Or, you could lower it to 25 - 45.Lowering the PSI range will lower the pressure, meaning your water wont come out as forcefully. Raising the range will raise the pressure, meaning your water will come out more forcefully. The right nut only adjusts the highest pressure in the range. This is a less commonly used part of the pressure switch, and you'll only want to adjust this one if you have a very specific reason to do so. You can turn this nut to raise or lower the high number in your range.[6]For example, if your pump is set to 30 - 50, you'd use the right nut to change it to 30 - 45.Raising the pressure of your range can damage the pump, especially if you adjust it a lot. You'd only want to do this if your range was already too low (meaning you had less than 20 PSI in your range). Advertisement Use a wrench to turn the nut and adjust the PSI. In general, 1 full turn will adjust the PSI by 2 or 3. To raise the PSI, turn the nut clockwise. To decrease the PSI, turn the nut counterclockwise.[7]Unfortunately, the pressure switch wont tell you how much youre adjusting the PSI until you turn it back on. Do your best to raise or lower the pressure accurately, but be prepared to do some adjusting. See how much you raised or lowered the PSI by checking the pump. Put the cover back on and switch the breaker to bring power back to your pump. Check the readout on your pump: the lower PSI will be when the pump turns on, and the higher PSI will be when it turns off. Turn the pump on to see where the range is and decide if you need to adjust it anymore.[8]When the pump turns on, and your new cut-in pressure. When it turns off, thats your new cut-off pressure.If you do need to adjust the pressure switch again, be sure to turn the breaker off before doing so. Advertisement Ask a Question Advertisement Co-authored by: Home Improvement Specialist This article was co-authored by Patrick Johns and by wikiHow staff writer, Hannah Madden. Patrick Johns is a Home Improvement Specialist and the Owner of CatchAll Handyman Services. With more than 28 years of experience, he has worked on a variety of home improvement projects, such as carpentry, plumbing, and door and window installations in both commercial and residential properties. This article has been viewed 194,127 times. Co-authors: 3 Updated: July 23, 2024 Views:194,127 Categories: Water PrintSend fan mail to authors Thanks to all authors for creating a page that has been read 194,127 times. I 'had no clue how to increase my water pressure. Thanks for the easy-to-understand step-by-step instructions. This article deserves a 5-star rating!'. ... more Share your story Water pump switch installation or replacement:How to Replace a Water Pressure Control Switch that Sticks "ON" or "OFF" or is irregular. Well pump & water tank pressure control switch repair or replacement procedures & wiring.This article describes how to replace a water pressure control switch which is not working properly or perhaps is not working at all. We describe and illustrate how to find the pump switch, then we detail how to identify, remove, and replace the water pump pressure control switch for both above-ground pump and submersible well pump systems. InspectAedia tolerates no conflicts of interest. We have no relationship with advertisers, products, or services discussed at this website. - Daniel Friedman, Publisher/Editor/Author - See WHO ARE WE? Water Pump Pressure Control Switch Replacement ProcedureIn the sketch at page top the water pump pressure control switch is indicated by the green arrow; we show this switch in more details in photographs provided below.(Click to enlarge any image)How to Remove and Replace a Water Pump Pressure Control SwitchThis article explains the detailed steps to install a new water pump pressure control switch, or the steps to follow to remove and replace an existing pump pressure control switch. These pump switch installation tips will make removing and replacing the water pump control switch easier, and which will reduce the water spillage (or spray) into the room during this operation.Really?Yeah, if you're like me you are replacing the entire pressure control switch assembly and its mounting tubing or the tubing that conducts water pressure to the pressure-sensing diaphragm on the switch base. However if you're like a few of our more adventurous readers and you want to replace just burned pressure switch contacts or a diaphragm with a hole in it, see this separate article: WATER PUMP PRESSURE SWITCH REPAIRSTurn off electrical power to the water pump. If you simply unscrew the pump control and pump and taking pressure off of the water tank and pump, you will have a fountain of water squirting all over the place. See WATER PUMP ELECTRICAL SWITCHES If you make this mistake and if you can't easily simply screw the old parts right back in to stop the leak, (you'll only do it once) don't panic- it's just water. Just turn off the pump and open a nearby valve to take water pressure off the system.If the pressure control switch is mounted high, say on top of a well pump which is itself on top of a water tank, all you need to do is take pressure off the water tank don't need to drain it fully.Disconnect electrical wiring from the water pump controlFind the water pump pressure control switch: first of course we need to find the pressure control switch. If you can't find the control, see WATER PUMP PRESSURE SWITCH LOCATION. The pump switch will be usually be located on the pump itself (above ground water pumps) or on a tee at the water pressure tank outlet.If your pressure tank and pump controls are not inside the building they may be located in a basement crawl area or outside in a well pit. (WELL PITs). On a building water pump-operated water supply system there is virtually always a pressure control switch somewhere; on some irrigation systems or other special designs the pump may operate only with an "off-on" switch and there may be no pressure tank and pressure control switch. Take a photo of your wiring connections before you touch anything, then you might as well as label the wires and perhaps make a little sketch showing which wires connected to which of the two or four terminals on the switch.Watch out: you can be killed by electrocution. Be sure that electrical power has been turned off, confirm that power is off using a neon tester or VOM. If you are not skilled and trained in this work, hire an electrician or plumber to do these tasks.Mark the electrical wires and their proper connection pointon the water pressure control switch. If you're proceeding on your own, mark and label each wire and each terminal that it was connected to so that you can replace the wiring correctly later.Remove water pressure from the water tank (see that gauge in my photo: if there's water pressure on your system you'll have it squirting all over the place if you don't remove pressure before opening any plumbing fittings: remove water pressure from the water tank and pump by opening a nearby faucet or tub, or by connecting a garden hose to the water tank drain and running the hose outside. You might not need to drain all of the water out of the water tank. Water tank full drain method #1. If the pump pressure control switch is mounted at the bottom of the water tank you can drain the water tank completely, but watch out for losing pump prime on some older types of pumps that take some water into reserve containers in case re-priming of an old pump is needed at the end of this repair.This will not be a concern the well pump is a submersible one down in the well since such pumps are self-priming.Water tank partial drain method #2:you can take the water pressure off of the water tank, down to say 5 or 10 psi, and speed up the repair process by following these stepsEnlist the aid of an accomplicewhose role we'll explain in a minuteHave all water pump control repair parts you might need close at handand prepared for usea new little riser pipea pipe plug of the same thread and diameter as the pump control mounting pipe youre removingPipe dope or teflon tapeAll new parts you intend to replaceUnscrew the old partsBlock leaking water with a finger or a pipe plug. As you remove them and water begins to flow out of the opening where the control was mounted, the accomplice simply puts his/her finger over the hole and keeps it there while you do your control checkout or prepare the replacement to screw in its easy to hold back 5 psi with a finger over a small hole.If you dont have an assistant, remove the old parts, and through the flowing water out of the threaded opening, screw in the pipe plug you bought for that purpose (cheap assistant) to close the leak, then go on to investigate the control or prepare and re-install the new one. Replace the pump pressure control parts with the new ones or the repaired ones you've got at hand.we like to prepare the new replacement parts with pipe dope or teflon tape before taking apart the old ones - that makes it quicker and neater in reassembling the pump pressure control switch with minimum water spillage. Reconnect the electrical wiring to the water pump control just as the previous control was wired. For a 120V circuit, there will be four electrical wires, two line-in wires (hot and neutral wires) from the power source are connected to two screws which may be indicated as "Line" by markings on the switch, and two line-out wires (hot and neutral wires) bringing power out of the control and on to the water pump.Watch out: also, as the manufacturer (Schneider Electric for Square D Pumptrol wiring connections).Electrical equipment should be serviced only by qualified electrical maintenance personnel. No responsibility is assumed by Square D I nor by InspectAedia.com I for any consequences arising out of the use of this material. - Pumpctrl Pressure Switch Installation & Wiring Instructions (2010), retrieved 1 April 2015. Schneider Electric USA 8001 Knightdale Blvd. Knightdale, NC 27545 1-888-SquareD (1-888-778-2733) www.us.SquareD.com Below is a simple wiring diagram example using a Square D Pumptrol installation schematic and a photo of a typical pump wiring hook-up.Watch out: If your pump pressure control switch is controlling a higher capacity submersible well pump, the electrical wires leaving the control may feed a separate heavy duty pump relay switch rather than going directly to the water pump. Well pump relay control panels are discussed separately at WATER PUMP RELAY SWITCH.(Click to enlarge any image) Turn off any faucets you opened earlarto remove pressure from the water system.Turn the water pump electrical power back onWatch the water tank pressure gauge, and when you have about 20 psi in the system (our gauge reading shown here is a bit too high) turn the water pump power back offand check the system for leaks. Wipe dry any wet parts, especially around the bottom of the pump control and where the pump control mounting pipe or fitting mounts into the water pump or water tank fitting. Inspect your plumbing connections closely for water seeping out - if you have leaks go back to step 1 or 2 and re-make your connections with better preparation of the threads with pipe dope or teflon tape.If you need to adjust the operating pressure range of the pressure switch see "How to Adjust Water Pump Pressure" given just below.When you confirm that there are no water leaks, turn your pump power back onand the system should operate normally.If the well pump is still not turning on and off properlyyou probably have another or a different problem. See the other water pressure and water pump control diagnostic articles listed at WATER PUMP PRESSURE CONTROL REPAIR - home Reader Question: how do I replace the well pump pressure control switch shown in this photo?Regarding your text stating that "Other pressure control switches may be bolted right to the pump motor and may use a flexible plastic or copper tube to transmit water pressure to the switch...." If this pipe (usually 1/8 IPT diameter) is clogged.... There is no such tubing (visible) on my system (see the photo at left), yet switches I looked at, at HomeDepot.com and on the internet, all show a "1/4 in. pressure connection" Am I going to run into a problem if I don't have this tubing? Can I still use such a tube? Here is a picture of back of the pressure control switch. It looks like your switch a 1/4" rather than 1/8" diameter iron pipe though I'm not quite sure just from the photo. 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