Tips for Troubleshooting Grinder Tank Alarm

If the alarm on your grinder tank sounds, it is crucial for the homeowner to act swiftly to identify and resolve the issue. Homeowners should follow this definitive outline of actions to resolve the issue:

If the alarm goes off on a Myers VRS200 grinder pump, a homeowner can take the following steps to troubleshoot and resolve the issue:

1. Assess the Alarm:

- **Visual Check:** Look at the alarm panel for flashing lights or error codes. The Myers VRS200 system typically has an alarm panel with a light indicator (red light) or a display showing fault codes.
- **Type of Alarm:** The alarm could indicate:
    - **High water level (due to blockage or failure of the pump)**
    - **Overload or failure of the pump**
    - **Electrical issues (such as a power failure)**

2. Check the Power Supply:

- **Ensure Power is On**: Check the circuit breaker or fuse panel to ensure the grinder pump receives power. If the breaker is tripped, reset it.
- **Check the Alarm Panel:** If the alarm does not have power, it may indicate an electrical issue. Inspect the connections and ensure everything is plugged in properly.

3. Listen to the Pump:

- **Pump Sounds:** Stand near the grinder pump tank and listen for the pump running sound. If the pump isn't operating, it may have failed or been clogged.
- **Unusual Sounds:** If you hear unusual sounds (like a grinding or humming noise), it may indicate an issue such as a stuck motor or obstruction.

4. Inspect for Blockages or Clogs:

- **Drain Lines:** A common cause of a high-water level alarm is a discharge line or tank outlet blockage. Check to ensure no obstructions or backups in the pipes leading from the grinder tank to the septic or sewer system.
- **Tank Overfill**: Check if the tank is overfilled or if any visible waste is backing up into it. This could be due to an obstruction in the system or indicate that the pump isn't grinding properly.

5. Reset the Alarm:

- If you believe the issue is temporary or has been addressed (e.g., power was restored or a minor blockage cleared), you may need to reset the alarm.
- **Reset Button:** Locate the reset button on the alarm panel. After addressing the potential cause of the alarm, press the reset button to silence the alarm. Some models might have a "push-to-reset" option.

- **Wait for the Pump to Cycle:** Once reset, give the system time to cycle through and see if the alarm reactivates. If it does, the issue has not been resolved.

6. Examine for Pump Failure:

- **Pump Inspection:** If the pump is not operating or is malfunctioning, it may need professional service. The VRS200 system features a grinding mechanism that could become jammed, and the motor might fail after extended use or with excessive debris.
- **Electrical Troubleshooting:** If the pump is powered but not running, it could be an electrical issue such as a bad capacitor, motor failure, or wiring fault.

7. Contact a Professional:

- **Call a Licensed Plumber/Technician:** If you cannot resolve the issue by yourself (e.g., the pump is still not running or there's a persistent clog), it's time to contact a licensed plumber or grinder pump technician with experience handling Myers grinder pumps.
- **Avoid DIY Repairs:** Grinder pumps involve electrical components, high-pressure systems, and mechanical parts. Unless you have specific training, avoid attempting to fix the pump yourself.

8. Minimize Water Use:

- **Reduce Water Consumption:** Until the issue is resolved, limit water use in your home to prevent overloading the system. Avoid flushing toilets or using dishwashers and laundry machines, as these could further strain the grinder pump and potentially cause sewage backups.

9. Routine Maintenance:

- **Regular Checks:** To prevent future alarms, consider scheduling regular maintenance on the grinder pump, including checking the pump operation, clearing any debris that may have accumulated, and ensuring the system functions optimally.

Key Takeaway: Start by checking the power, inspecting for blockages, and listening to the pump's operation. If those steps don't resolve the issue, reset the alarm, and if the problem persists, contact a professional to inspect and repair the Myers VRS200 grinder pump.

TROUBLESHOOTING

CONDITION	PROBABLE CAUSE
Pump runs but does not pump liquid from basin.	Pump impeller may be air locked; this occasionally occurs in a new installation. Start and stop pump several times to purge air. a. Run additional water into basin so that the pump will be submerged deeper to clear air. b. If air does not clear, it may be necessary to lift pump out of sealing elbow and start motor to allow pump to pump for a few seconds. If discharge is piped in with union, slightly break union and start pump to clear air. If pump has been installed for some time and does not pump, it may be clogged at grinder inlet. Discharge gate valve may be closed. Discharge check valve may be clogged or have a broken clapper. Discharge head may be too high. Check elevation.
Red light comes on at control box.	This indicates some water has leaked past the lower seal and has entered the seal chamber and made contact with the electrode probe. Pump must be removed from basin immediately for replacement of lower seal.
Overload trips and high water level alarms.	Push in red reset button to reset overload. If overload trips again after short run, remove pump and check for damage. Check grinder for clogged material as this can cause an overload condition on the motor A faulty component in the control box could exist.
Yellow run light stays on continuously.	Indicates H-O-A switch may be in the Hand position. Level control switch may have failed causing pump to continue to operate when water is below lower float. Grinder assembly may be partially clogged causing pump to operate at very reduced capacity. Check valve may be clogged causing low pump flow. Gate valve may be in OFF position. Pump may be air locked.
Circuit breaker trips.	Reset breaker by pushing down on the handle, then put back to the ON position. If breaker trips again in a few seconds, that indicates excessive load probably caused by a short in the motor or control box. If condition happens after an electrical storm, motor or control box may be damaged by lightning. A resistance reading of the motor with the lead wires disconnected from the control box can determine if the trouble is in the motor or control box.
Pump is noisy and pump rate is low.	Grinder assembly may be partially clogged with foreign objects causing overload on the motor. Grinder impeller may be rubbing due to bent shaft or misalignment.
Grease and solids have accumulated around pump and will not pump out of the basin.	Pump On switch may be set too high. Run pump on Hand operation for several minutes with small amount of water running into basin to clean out solids and grease. This allows pump to break suction and break up the solids. Trash may have accumulated around lower weight causing pump to turn off too soon. Clean the trash from the weight and suspension cable.