

Draining & refilling softsider waterbeds

Draining can be done in several ways but is normally accomplished by either siphoning or pumping.

The initial steps are the same for both methods.

- i. Switch off and unplug the heater.
- ii. Remove the mattress cover completely.

Siphoning

Pull up the neck of the filler plug and remove any excess air in the mattress before you start to drain.

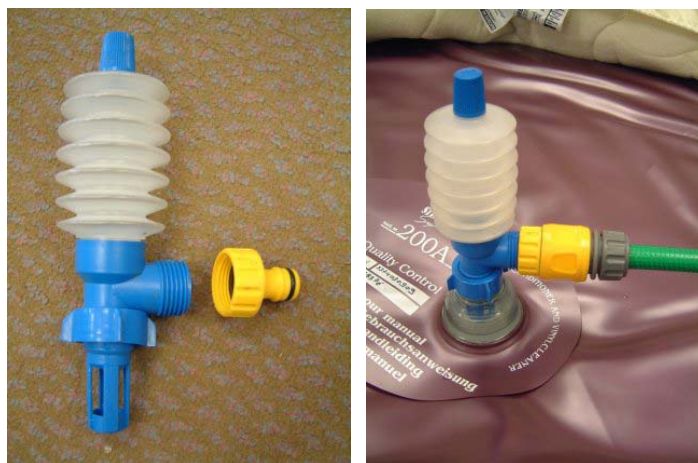
You can use a normal $\frac{1}{2}$ " garden hose to drain the mattress and there are a couple of ways to connect to your bed.

- 1) Using a 'Perfect Union' connector (supplied with all TTI and Akva beds):



To use this system, attach the 'Perfect Union' together with an Accessory Adaptor $\frac{3}{4}$ " BSP Male Thread (e.g. Hozelock #2289) to the filler plug of the mattress. Fill the hose pipe with water from a tap, clamp the far end (kink the pipe a couple of times and use a couple of elastic bands, or use a pair of 'mole grips'). With a Hose End Connector (e.g. Hozelock #2166) on the near end of the pipe, connect to the 'Perfect Union' and adaptor on the filler plug and pass the rest of the pipe (still full of water) out of a window or via a suitable route to a drainage point that is as low as possible. The further the vertical distance between bed and drain, the better and faster the siphoning action. Then, release the far end of the pipe to initiate water flow and the bed will start to drain.

- 2) Using a 'Super Siphon' as illustrated:



Using this device means that you don't have to fill the hosepipe with water before you start to drain. Just attach the 'Super Siphon' to the filler plug and by using a Treaded Tap Connector $\frac{3}{4}$ " BSP (e.g. Hozelock Part No. 2184) you can connect to the hosepipe with a Hose End Connector (e.g. Hozelock Part No. 2166) on the hosepipe. Pump up and down on the 'Super Siphon' bellows until water begins to flow from the mattress. The bellows will contract slightly when the water starts to flow on its own. You may need to re-pump from time to time if the siphon fills with air from the mattress and the flow stops.

Pumping

We hire out a suitable 240V electric pump and hoses to do this job a little faster. If you hire the equipment from us we'll give you instructions on its use when you collect it.

- iii. For any of the above drainage methods, allow the bed to drain until no further water will flow (or until the pump flow diminishes significantly). Do absolutely nothing to the mattress during the draining process. Just leave it to drain and it will pack quite flat. On no account lift the top end of the mattress to improve the rate of drainage. This may result in slumping of the fibre content of the mattress and this may be impossible to correct.
- iv. When the mattress has drained as much as is possible and the water flow has ceased, disconnect the hose and end fittings and quickly refit the safety cap and screw cap. If the mattress is to be left in storage for more than a couple of weeks it is advisable to put a bottle of conditioner in the mattress at this stage to minimise bacterial activity.
- v. Again, if the mattress is to be stored for a period, thoroughly clean the upper surface and sides of the mattress using a damp cloth and ideally with Blue Magic Vinyl Cleaner to reduce the risk of mould growth, then dry the mattress surface with a towel.
- vi. The mattress then needs to be folded up and stored safely. First, fold the head end $\frac{1}{3}$ of the mattress onto the centre $\frac{1}{3}$. Then fold the bottom $\frac{1}{3}$ onto the centre $\frac{1}{3}$. You might like to put a bit of bubble wrap or equivalent around the filler cap to prevent damage to the mattress as the filler cap is almost impossible to push back into the mattress when drained. You can fold $\frac{1}{2}$ lengthwise and then $\frac{1}{2}$ sideways if you prefer.

PLEASE NOTE that you will almost certainly need two people to lift the mattress out of the bed. If it is being stored or if you are moving house, put the mattress in an appropriately sized, sturdy cardboard box to avoid damage.

- vii. Next, untuck the safety liner and fold it up. You might like to use a marker pen to indicate which end is the 'head' for ease of refitting.
- viii. Below the safety liner is the heater pad. To avoid damage to the heater, either keep the pad flat or roll it up loosely with the cables stored in the centre of the cylinder. Make sure it is not folded or crushed.

The remainder of the process very much depends on the manufacturer and model. Some general guidelines for the more common models are given below.

TTI Quatro - Remove and roll up the insulation pad that sits on top of the platform and below the heater. Remove the black head/foot/side foam profiles. Note how these are fitted so that you know how to refit them. Unclip the four toggle clips that hold the four sections of the bed platform together. These can then be lifted off the base. You might like to mark these (head left, head right etc) for ease of reassembly. Measure the distance from the back panel of the base to the wall so that

you can reassemble in the same position. The corner connectors that hold the four base panels together can be slid upwards and removed. Again, mark them so that you know which goes where when you reassemble. Make sure you mark the 'inside' and 'outside' surfaces. The corner connectors will not fit if you get them the wrong way round. Finally, slide one half of the weight distributors from its other half and store safely.

TTI Laguna - As for the Quato but the bed is in two halves rather than in four quarters.

TTI Universal - Fold back (towards the centre of the bed) the black foam profiles at the head and foot end of the bed. Under this foam where the two bed halves join, unclip the toggle clip that holds each bed half together at head and foot. The clips are sometimes quite tight so you may have to use a flat screwdriver to lift up the lever end of the clip. You might also like to mark which half of the bed is right and which half is left. You will need two people to lift each half of the bed off the base. Measure the distance from the back panel of the base to the wall so that you can reassemble in the same position. The corner connectors that hold the four base panels together can be slid upwards and removed. Again, mark them so that you know which goes where when you reassemble. Make sure you mark the 'inside' and 'outside' surfaces. The corner connectors will not fit if you get them the wrong way round. Finally, slide one half of each of the weight distributors from its other half and stack and store safely.

Reassembly and refilling

This is just the opposite of the draining process.

Assemble the base and position it so that the 'head' panel is about 22cm from the wall (or whatever you measured when you dismantled). Check that the 'head' panel is parallel to the wall and that the two diagonals are equal (i.e. that the distance from top left to bottom right is the same as top right to bottom left). This ensures that the base is assembled square.

Fit the weight dividers (usually 9 of them under a double bed in 3 rows of 3, evenly distributed) within the base frame.

Refit the bed platform sections and clip them together. TTI beds usually have an overhang on either side of about 15 to 16cm. Make sure the bed platform is positioned squarely and evenly on the base. On the TTI Quatro, unroll and position the insulation pad. On the Quatro and Laguna models, refit the black foam profiles.

Position the heater in the same place as originally. Try to keep it to one side or another and avoid laying it over joins in the bed platform if possible. Feed the cable out through the joint between the foam profiles at the head of the bed.

Reposition the safety liner (replace it if there is any damage evident) making sure you have an even overhang all around the bed.

You will need two people to lift the mattress back into the bed and unfold it. It should be reasonably easy to fit it in the same position as when you drained the bed. If in any doubt, take the filler cap and safely cap off and allow air into the mattress. You can then pull each upper corner of the mattress up and out into the corners of the foam profiles to see if it fits squarely within the bed. Adjust if necessary as you won't be able to move it later!

Use a 'Perfect Union' and a **CLEAN** hosepipe (you do not want slugs or other garden organisms in your mattress) to fill from a cold tap. You can use warm water from a mixer tap but don't use hot water on

its own. You may need to stop occasionally and get air out of the mattress (especially if you allowed a lot in when repositioning the mattress. Fill to about 2cm (3/4") below the level of the foam profile.

Vent as much air as possible from the mattress and then put in a bottle of Water Conditioner. Push the filler cap back down into the mattress. This may be difficult if the mattress is full of cold water. If necessary, leave this until later when the bed has warmed up. Plug in and switch on the heater. Refit the cover and put a duvet on the bed to help it warm up as quickly as possible. Setting the temperature much higher than normal on the handset will not speed this process up. Just set it to your normal sleeping temperature.

If the bed is not up to temperature by the time you want to sleep on it, use a spare duvet under your bottom sheet to help insulate you and the bed.

Call us on 01752 893414 if you have any question on the process or if we have left anything obvious out of the instructions!

We sell all the bits and pieces to make the process as easy as possible:

Description	Unit Price inc VAT
Blue Magic 'Super Siphon'	£9.95
Blue Magic 'Perfect Union'	£2.40
Blue Magic Waterbed Conditioner (119ml, 4fl oz)	£3.95
Blue Magic Vinyl Cleaner (238ml, 8fl oz)	£4.75
Hozelock 2289 Accessory Adaptor $\frac{3}{4}$ " BSP Male Thread	£2.40
Hozelock 2184 Treaded Tap Connector $\frac{3}{4}$ " BSP	£2.40

Call us on 01752 893414 for details of postage and packing.

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