

Handy Draining Tip

by Lt Dan

A handy little item to help keep your black tank clean is a third shutoff valve and extension. I installed a six inch clear Camco drain extension to be able to monitor the liquid coming out of the tank to tell when it's running as clear as possible, then added the third valve to the end of the extension.

The purpose of the valve is to use your gray water to back flush the black tank to remove as much of the waste as possible. Depending on how much gray water you have in the tank, anywhere from three to five back flushes are possible. The extra valve will be referred to as Valve 3 for clarification.

The use of the valve is very simple and the sequence is as follows:

- 1) Open Valve 3, then open the black tank valve and let it drain as much as possible.
- 2) Close Valve 3 then open the gray tank valve while leaving the black tank open until the backflow stops.
- 3) Close the gray tank valve, then open Valve 3 to drain the black tank.
- 4) Close Valve 3 and repeat steps 1-3 as many times as you have gray water available.

The force of the gray water rushing back into the black tank helps dislodge and move any solids left behind after the initial drain.

Of course you won't be able to utilize the bottom drain in the wet bay but I find that it sets too low to be of much use anyway. The below pictured setup stays on the drain all the time and I only hook and drain when needed. The valve and extension will rotate upward out of the way on the tank drain pipes.

