

## Part 4: Trouble Shooting

Almost every problem encountered with a Utilivac® system is related to a problem with the compressed air supply, an air leak, or dirt build up.

**Problem:** Unit does not perform well and pressure gauge on vacuum generator reads less than 68 psi during operation. The gauge on the compressor reads 100 PSI.

**Cause:** Insufficient compressed air. This could be the result of using an undersized or defective air compressor, using the wrong size air lines for the length of run, leaky air lines, or a valve which is obstructed or not opening all the way. The pressure reading on the compressor is not relevant to the air flow at the pump.

**Problem:** Unit does not perform well and pressure gauge (on the pump) reads in the normal range (over 68psi).

**Cause:** There are two probable causes: 1) the system may have a vacuum leak at one of the seals. Other places to look for leaks are along the material handling hose. 2) the second cause may be dirt buildup in the vacuum generator, a clog in the material hose, an over full hopper, or an extremely clogged exhaust bag. If the unit does not generate much vacuum or flow, the neoprene flapper (check) valves in the base of the vacuum generator may be in need of replacement.

**Problem:** Air lance does not cut through the soil.

**Cause:** Check the air flow from the blade end of the lance and make sure it is not clogged with dirt. If the lance blade air gap is too wide or too narrow it will not dig efficiently. Check the air gap, it should be approximately .040 in. for proper operation. You may also have encountered very hard soils and you may have to alter your technique. It is usually more effective to bore pilot holes in hard soils than to jab into them with the blade. **GENERALLY YOU SHOULD NOT USE THE LANCE TO DIG THE FIRST 12" OF EXCAVATION. THERE IS TOO MUCH RISK OF INJURY FROM FLYING MATERIAL. USE A DIGGING BAR OR OTHER HAND TOOL FOR THE FIRST 12" OF EXCAVATION AS LONG AS YOU ARE SURE NOT TO ENCOUNTER UTILITIES.**