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**Balboa Water Group 1215120**

# Balboa Vico Ultima 1.5 HP Side Discharge Wet End Instruction Manual

Model: 1215120

## 1. PRODUCT OVERVIEW

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This manual provides essential information for the Balboa Vico Ultima and Ultra Jet 1.5 HP Side Discharge Wet End, model 1215120. This component is designed as a replacement pump head or wet end assembly for 48-frame Vico Ultima jet pumps commonly used in spas and hot tubs. It includes the pre-assembled volute, 1.5 horsepower impeller, and shaft seal, ready for installation.



Image of the Balboa Vico Ultima 1.5 HP Side Discharge Wet End, model 1215120. This black plastic component features threaded inlet and outlet ports, designed to connect to plumbing unions. It includes the volute, impeller, and shaft seal for a complete wet end assembly.

## 2. SAFETY INFORMATION

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### **WARNING: Risk of Electric Shock and Injury.**

- Always disconnect power to the spa or hot tub before attempting any installation, maintenance, or repair.
- Installation and service must be performed by a qualified service professional. Improper installation can create a hazardous electrical shock, fire, or injury risk.
- Ensure all plumbing connections are secure and watertight to prevent leaks, which can cause damage or electrical hazards.
- Do not operate the pump without water. Dry running can cause severe damage to the wet end and motor.

## 3. SETUP AND INSTALLATION

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This wet end is designed for direct replacement on compatible 48-frame Vico Ultima jet pumps. Unions for plumbing connections are sold separately.

### 3.1 Compatibility

- Fits 48-frame Vico Ultima jet pumps.

### 3.2 Port Specifications

- Inlet/Outlet Ports: 1.5 inches (nominal pipe size).
- Outer Diameter (OD) of Ports: Approximately 2-3/8 inches, designed to fit 1.5 inch unions.

### 3.3 Installation Steps (Professional Installation Recommended)

1. **Disconnect Power:** Ensure the spa or hot tub is completely disconnected from its power source.
2. **Drain System:** Drain the spa or hot tub to prevent water spillage during the replacement process.
3. **Remove Old Wet End:** Carefully disconnect the plumbing unions from the existing wet end. Unbolt the old wet end from the pump motor.
4. **Inspect Motor Shaft:** Check the motor shaft for any damage or corrosion.
5. **Install New Wet End:** Align the new Balboa wet end with the pump motor shaft. Securely bolt the wet end to the motor.
6. **Connect Plumbing:** Attach the 1.5-inch plumbing unions (sold separately) to the wet end's inlet and outlet ports. Ensure all connections are hand-tightened, then use a wrench for a final snug fit, being careful not to overtighten.
7. **Refill and Test:** Refill the spa or hot tub. Inspect for any leaks before restoring power. Once power is restored, test the pump for proper operation.

## 4. OPERATION

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The wet end is a critical component of your spa's jet pump. It houses the impeller and volute, which are responsible for moving water through the system when the pump motor is energized. This specific wet end is designed for 1.5 horsepower applications, providing efficient water flow for your spa's jets.

Once properly installed, the wet end operates in conjunction with the pump motor. When the motor spins the impeller, water is drawn into the wet end, pressurized, and then discharged through the outlet port to the spa's plumbing system and jets.

## 5. MAINTENANCE

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Proper maintenance of your spa pump system, including the wet end, can extend its lifespan and ensure optimal performance. While the wet end itself requires minimal direct maintenance, regular checks of the overall pump system are recommended.

- **Leak Inspection:** Periodically check the plumbing unions connected to the wet end for any signs of leaks. Address any leaks promptly to prevent water damage or electrical hazards.
- **Seal Integrity:** The wet end includes a shaft seal. If you notice water leaking from between the wet end and the motor, it may indicate a worn shaft seal requiring replacement.
- **Debris Check:** Ensure that the pump's intake is clear of debris, which can restrict water flow and put strain on the impeller and motor.
- **Winterization:** If you live in a cold climate, ensure your spa and pump system are properly winterized to prevent freezing and potential damage to the wet end and plumbing.

## 6. TROUBLESHOOTING

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If you experience issues with your spa pump, the wet end may be a contributing factor. Always ensure power is disconnected before inspecting any pump components.

Symptom	Possible Cause	Action
Water leaking from wet end connections	Loose unions, damaged O-rings, cracked housing	Tighten unions, inspect and replace O-rings, inspect housing for cracks. Professional repair may be needed.
Water leaking between wet end and motor	Worn or damaged shaft seal	Shaft seal replacement required. Professional service recommended.
Reduced water flow from jets	Clogged impeller, air lock, motor issue	Check for debris in impeller, bleed air from pump, consult a professional for motor diagnosis.
Pump making unusual noise (grinding, rattling)	Impeller obstruction, worn bearings (motor), cavitation	Inspect impeller for foreign objects. If noise persists, professional diagnosis of motor or wet end is needed.

For complex issues or if you are unsure about any repair, it is highly recommended to contact a qualified spa technician.

## 7. SPECIFICATIONS

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- **Model Number:** 1215120
- **Product Dimensions:** 7.7 x 7.7 x 6.1 inches
- **Item Weight:** 2.7 pounds
- **Manufacturer:** Balboa Watergroup
- **Horsepower Rating:** 1.5 HP (Impeller)
- **Port Size:** 1.5 inch nominal (2-3/8 inch outer diameter)
- **Compatibility:** Designed for 48-frame Vico Ultima jet pumps
- **Components Included:** Volute, 1.5 HP Impeller, Shaft Seal

## 8. WARRANTY AND SUPPORT

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Warranty coverage for the Balboa Vico Ultima 1.5 HP Side Discharge Wet End is provided by Balboa Water Group. Specific warranty terms and duration may vary. Please retain your proof of purchase for warranty claims.

For detailed warranty information, technical support, or to locate authorized service centers, please visit the official Balboa Water Group website or contact their customer service directly. Contact information is typically available on the manufacturer's official website or product packaging.

**Note:** Improper installation or unauthorized repairs may void the product warranty.