

Explanation of operation:

When the water level causes the float to rise, it presses on the lever with the (elastomer) plug. The plug moves into position to block the pinhole. When this happens, the pressure on either side of the gasket is equal, which permits the spring to push the gasket into position to cover the orifice.

The point is that the spring does not have to be powerful - only the slightest amount of pressure will push the gasket closed.