

CARE FOR YOUR FOUNTAIN OR BIRDBATH



Our fountains and birdbaths are designed to provide you with years of pleasure and a minimum of attention. The information on this page will help you maintain your fountain or birdbath for years to come.

Setting up for your Fountain or Birdbath

All fountains and birdbaths require a firm level foundation. Low bird baths (22" or less) may be placed on firm soil. Larger bird baths and fountains should be placed on a level cement or wooden surface. A cement stepping stone is ideal for this.

Winter Protection

Bowls and basins left exposed to freezing water may shale or crack. This is caused by the action of water solidifying and expanding along a given surface. To prevent damage to the basin or bowl, keep it drained of water throughout the winter. Most birdbath bowls can be simply lifted off the pedestal and brought under cover. If your fountain bowl cannot be stored under cover during the winter months, we recommend the following: Drain the bowl. Remove the pump. Cover with plastic (to prevent rainwater from accumulating) and tie down securely. On some bowls you can unscrew the fitting in the center of the bowl and this should keep the water drained.

Operating your Fountain

Fill the bowl as much as possible without spillage. The water will indicate whether the bowl is level. If any adjusting is required, shimming of the bowl or pedestal may be required. Always maintain a water level above the fountain pump, never allowing it to run dry.

To reduce the risk of electrical shock, connect pump only to a properly grounded, grounding type receptacle. Because water evaporates, it may be necessary to add water once a week or more as needed during the summer months. When you fill the fountain, remove any foreign matter that may interfere with the action of the pump. If splashing occurs, and is a problem (as for indoor use), we recommend the use of an inverted tea strainer, or fine wire mesh, secured at the point where the water hits the bowl. The strainer or mesh must protrude above the water to break any

splash. Do not run your fountain when you are not home or during a strong wind unless you are able to refill it.

Keeping Fountain Water Clean

Water should be changed and pump filter checked and cleaned every 3 to 4 weeks. A garden hose or tubing will siphon the water out of the bowl for cleaning. Use only a sponge or soft bristle brush for scrubbing finished surfaces. If water becomes cloudy, we suggest 1 or 2 tablespoons of Clorox bleach added to the water when this occurs. To add aesthetic appeal to your fountain water, add a few drops of concentrated liquid bluing.

Trouble Shooting

Here are some steps to follow if you are not getting any water flow:

- 1.** Unplug the cord and plug it in several times. This will clear any "air-lock" in the pump itself.
- 2.** It may be necessary to prime the pump by forcing air back through the fountain to the pump itself.
- 3.** Check and see that restrictor clamp is not too tight and that no foreign matter is obstructing the water flow in the tubing.
- 4.** Be sure to check that there is not a kink in the tubing.
- 5.** Check to see that the impeller in pump is moving. Sometimes foreign matter enters the pump and jams the impeller blade.