

Fountain & Birdbath Care

SETTING UP YOUR FOUNTAIN OR BIRDBATH: All fountains and birdbaths require a firm level foundation. Low birdbaths (22" or less) may be placed on firm soil. Larger birdbaths 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. 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 the bowl with plastic (to prevent rain water 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. Always maintain a water level above the fountain pump, never allowing it to run dry. Allowing the pump to run when it is not fully submerged in water can ruin your pump. To reduce the risk of electrical shock, connect the 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 the pump filter checked and cleaned every three to four 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.

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 water back through the fountain to the pump itself.
3. Check and see that the restrictor clamp is not too tight and that no foreign matter is obstructing the water flow in the tubing.
4. Be sure there is not a kink in the tubing.
5. Check to see if the impeller in the pump is moving. Sometimes foreign matter enters the pump and jams the impeller blade.

