



Grandma's
GARDENS

Fountain Care and Maintenance

A beautiful fountain will make a great focal piece for any garden or patio as it adds the calming sound of water to your landscape.

Always operate your fountain with the pump fully submerged in water.

- Don't let your pump run dry or it may burn out. Check water level frequently. You may need to add water once a week or more depending on size of fountain, placement and exposure.
- Use distilled water or water from a softener to reduce mineral buildup. Depending on temperature and evaporation, you may encounter a buildup of white residue on the surface of the fountain. This is unavoidable in areas with high mineral content in local water supplies. More frequent cleaning and replacement of water will help to minimize.

Keep your fountain and pump clean.

- Manually remove leaves and/or debris from fountain. Your pump will be the first thing to see buildup as this is where water is filtered and flowing through. Do NOT use chlorine-based or harsh chemicals that may harm the pump and finish to your fountain. We recommend animal/child safe Algaecide or similar products sold here at Grandma's.
- It's recommended that you clean your fountain at LEAST once a month, if not more often, keeping the water clear from sludge, algae and cloudiness.
- Unplugging electric power to the fountain is essential before performing any maintenance. Then remove all the water. You can remove any plugs from the fountain or use a wet vacuum.
- While the fountain is still damp, wipe it down with a soft cloth, sponge or soft bristle brush to remove algae and debris from rocks, bowls or basin.
- **Cleaning the pump is a top priority!** The pump is the motor to the fountain. Open pump to remove propeller (NOT all pumps can be disassembled). Use an old toothbrush inside of the pump and tubing. Use the pressure nozzle on your hose, carefully spraying away any buildup. ENSURE YOU ARE NOT USING ANY HARSH CLEANING PRODUCTS that may harm the pump or the finish of your fountain. Put propeller back into pump and secure it back together.
- Rinse bowl(s) and basin thoroughly with the hose. A good rinse is critical to remove any loose debris. Drain or empty bowl(s) or basin again to ensure only clean water will be going through the pump and fountain.
- Algae is a common problem with water features. It is a product of water and sunlight. Algae can be minimized by using the algaecide or similar maintenance products sold at Grandma's.
- After tubing and pump are back in place, fill your fountain with distilled or softened water and you're back in business! Plug the pump back in to ensure it is running properly.

See very important **winterizing** tips on Pg. 2.

Winterizing is paramount for the life of the fountain, especially the pump!

- Freezing water expands and can cause cracks in concrete, glazed, metal or other fountain materials. A good rule of thumb is to winterize your fountain a minimum of 5 days before the first major freeze
- Remove all water from all parts of the fountain. If the pump can be removed, do so. However, if you are not able to remove pump due to difficulty of moving the fountain, it may stay in the base, NOT the basin. Pump must be removed from basin.
- This is also a good time to clean the fountain using the instructions above.
- If the pump is staying in the fountain base, pack the pump with old washcloths, towels or blankets to protect from freezing and thawing during the winter months. In case water were to condensate inside of cover, it would be absorbed in the packing cloths.
- Finally, you want to protect your fountain with a cover (fountain cover/tarp/outdoor furniture cover). Tie the bottom of cover to custom fit your fountain. After the fountain is protected, do NOT allow water to re-enter the fountain.

Thank You for purchasing your fountain from Grandma's Gardens. Please let us know if we can answer any other questions you may have. Ask for Dennis Paul. (937) 885-2740.

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