



Quite Simply. Amazing.

growing guide

Fountains & Statuary: Frequently Asked Questions

How do I decide which fountain to select?

- Consider the style - Select something compatible with your home or your lifestyle -- contemporary, casual, European, *avant garde*, etc.
- Consider the sound - From a gurgle to a splash-- choose the best sound for your space .
- Consider your placement - Choose a location where you can easily run the electrical wire to your fountain.



To have a fountain, do I need plumbing to the fountain?

You need an *electrical* connection for the pump, but the water can be added from a hose. Pumps are usually included in the price of a fountain, and a pump purchased from Hoerr Nursery is covered under warrantee for one year.

Can my fountains, statuary or planters be left out over winter?

- Thicker Poly Planters and concrete planters can stay outside, but it's best to at least empty the planter so the soil does not freeze and thaw during winter.
- Bring fiberglass in for the winter.
- Resin products should come in for the winter. Spray resin statuary and fountains once a year with clear-coat (polyurethane) sealer. Also, use distilled water in resin fountains to minimize deposits.

If I have a large fountain and can't bring it in for the winter, how do I prepare it for winter weather?

Put towels, burlap, or blankets in the basin to absorb moisture, and then cover your fountain with a large tarp. If possible, turn some of the bowls on the fountain upside down so they will not collect water and freeze. Heavy snow can still indent the tarp and allow snow or ice to collect in the bowl, so be sure to check on it throughout the winter.

How do I clean my fountain?

Clean fountains once a month to prevent the build up of algae and mineral deposits. Clean the bowl and pump thoroughly – this includes taking the pump apart and cleaning the inside to eliminate algae and mineral buildup. The best tools for fountain cleaning are an old toothbrush, dish detergent and warm water.

You can purchase a product to add to the water that will clean the fountain continually. Another option is to scrub it using a stiff brush and white vinegar. Never use bleach to clean your fountain as it could affect the finish.

How much water do I need to keep in the fountain?

Keep enough water in your fountain for the pump to be totally submerged.

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Fountain Information

Investing a couple of hours every few months in your fountain will keep it looking good and running properly for years! Follow the tips below for general fountain maintenance.

Basic Fountain Care

Don't let your pump run dry. Submersible pumps can be ruined if the water level gets too low. Make sure the pump is covered with water at all times, and be sure to unplug it if you will be away for a while.

Cleaning Your Fountain

Clean fountains once a month to prevent the build up of algae and mineral deposits. Clean the bowl, rock and pump of your fountain thoroughly – this includes taking the pump apart and cleaning the inside to eliminate algae and mineral buildup. The best tools for fountain cleaning are an old toothbrush, dish detergent and warm water.

Pump Maintenance

Cleaning the pump is simple, and absolutely essential to your fountain. Check the manufacturer's instructions on the pump before taking it apart. Soak the elements in a vinegar solution. This helps break down mineral deposits. Clean the pump once per month if you have soft water and twice per month if you have hard water. A well-maintained pump should last two to three years.

Preventing Algae Build Up

Algae grow fastest in bright light, so it may be a good idea to position your fountain in the shade. Completely change the water in your fountain once a month to reduce algae growth. Listerine, lemon juice or vinegar can also help prevent the growth of algae or you could buy a commercial algaecide. If your fountain has a decorative ceramic finish, test these products in an inconspicuous area before using them throughout.

Getting Rid of Calcium Deposits

Calcium deposits can build up on the ceramic or stone elements of your fountain. Calcium can be removed with a common kitchen or bathroom lime remover. Always check the label though, as some of these products are damaging to bronze or slate materials.

Getting Water Levels Right

Maintaining the right water level in your fountain will prevent your pump from burning out. It's a good idea to check the water level daily. Generally it's better to add a small amount of water each day rather than a large amount every few days. The water should be changed every month to help prevent build up and no less than every four months. In the winter do not allow water to freeze in the pump, lines or bowl.

Winter Fountain Care

In cold climates, store your fountain and pump inside during winter. If you can't do this, drain your fountain completely, fill the fountain bowl with burlap and cover the fountain with a waterproof cover for the winter.