

# How to Clean and Care for Your Outdoor Water Fountain

Installing a Design Toscano indoor/outdoor self-contained fountain is simple. As with most things it just takes a little patience for a huge reward. With these essential maintenance and troubleshooting tips, you can prolong the life of your fountain – ensuring that you enjoy it for many seasons to come!



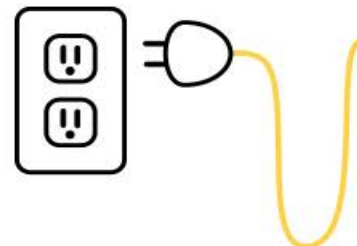
## SET-UP

### Get Your Fountain Flowing



#### Level Your Fountain

For proper water flow and pump efficiency, place your fountain on a level surface or base. Add gravel, patio blocks, soil or shims to level the fountain as necessary.



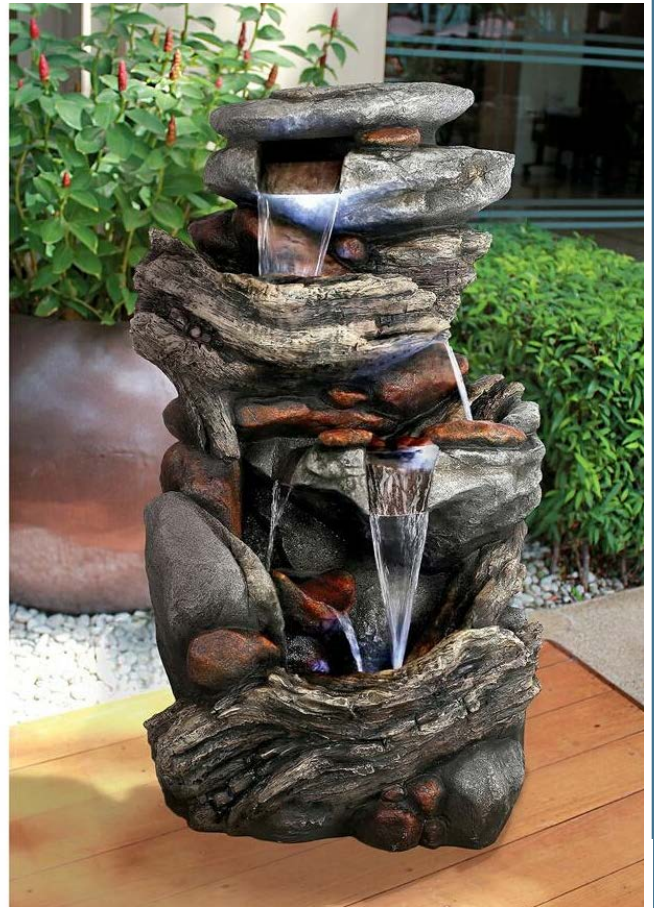
#### Create a Drip Loop

To prevent damage to the electrical socket, create a drip loop by allowing the pump's power cord to hang below your wall outlet. Your fountain should always be plugged into a GFCI outlet.

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## MAINTENANCE Keep It Flowing

Taking proper care of your fountain will keep it looking good and running smoothly. Pumps require simple maintenance so they can perform to their full potential. Seasonal changes are also important so follow along below to know how to protect your investment



### Pump Care

Check water levels frequently and add water as needed. Remove debris with a small net to prevent clogging. In summer, hot weather will cause water to evaporate more quickly so check your fountain more often. **The pump must be fully submerged at all times to avoid damage.**

Clean your pump every 2 to 3 months by submerging it in a 50% diluted white vinegar solution. If needed, you can scrub stubborn areas with dish soap and hot water to loosen any buildup of debris, dirt and algae.



**PRO TIP:** Fill your fountain with distilled water to prevent algae buildup and reduce bacteria making cleaning your fountain quick and easy.

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### Surface Care

Control algae and mineral buildup:

Due to water evaporation, you may see white residue from the mineral content – or green and black residue from algae growth. Using distilled water will reduce this problem. For stubborn cases, an algaecide controller and cleansers can prevent this buildup.

Protect the exterior of your fountain seasonally with UV protectant spray and refinish as needed with outdoor paint recommended for use on your fountain's material (resin, plastic, metal, etc).



### Winter Care

Drain your fountain completely so water doesn't freeze and damage or crack your fountain which will cause leaks.

Bring small fountains indoors for the winter and store in a dry, covered location.

For large fountains: bring ALL pumps and components inside, or to a temperature-controlled environment. Elevate your fountain so it doesn't freeze to the ground. Fill the basin with an absorbent material, remove the drain plug if you have one and place a heavy-duty plastic cover over the fountain.



## TROUBLESHOOTING

# What If Something Goes Wrong?

If your fountain is not functioning properly, check out these problem solvers to get it looking and functioning as good as new.



### Pump Not Working

Give it time. Sometimes it takes a few minutes after setting up for the water to start flowing.

Make sure your pump is fully submerged. Add water as needed.

Plug and unplug the pump's electrical cord a few times. Make sure the GFCI outlet is working and turned on.

If the pump is removable, unplug it and check the impeller area to make sure the rotor isn't broken or jammed with debris.



### Pump Noise

Check to make sure your pump is fully submerged.

Check the location of your pump to ensure that it's not rattling against the sides of the water feature.

Check the pump's flow rate as a rate too low can cause spews or burps.



### Water Flow Rate

Utilize the "+/-" slider or dial on the pump body to adjust the flow rate.

Adjust the water level by slowly adding water to cover the pump until reaching desired effect. Make note of ideal level for future reference.

Check for kinks: bends and obstructions in the tubing can slow or halt the flow of water.

**PRO TIP:** To better control the water, clamp the hose with a clip or flow restrictor clamp.



### Leaking

Adjust the water level. If your fountain is over capacity, it could cause leakage.

Check to make sure the tubing is attached correctly.

Check to see if there is any damage to the basin and be sure to follow our winter care tips to prevent cracks.

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### Splashing

Adjust the water level, ensuring that the pump is fully submerged at all times without overflowing your fountain.

Utilize the "+/-" slider or dial on the pump body to adjust the flow rate.

Rearrange any included decorative rocks or splash guard or add your own screen in the basin where the water hits to prevent splash back.



### Lights Not Working

Check the power to ensure that the light unit (if separate) is plugged into a GFCI outlet and that the outlet is functional and switched on.

Check internal connections to ensure that the light power cord (if separate) is connected to the transformers and that the light harness is connected inside the fountain.

Learn more about fountain styles, displays and maintenance at

[DesignToscanoBlog.com](http://DesignToscanoBlog.com)

See our whole line of self-contained fountains, pond spitters and garden statues at

[DesignToscano.com](http://DesignToscano.com)



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