

Disappearing Fountain Installation Instructions

A Disappearing Fountain is a great way to add the sound and movement of water to your garden! Water is pumped from a hidden reservoir buried in the ground through the fountain piece and then seemingly disappears into the ground. With our molded reservoirs, installing a Disappearing Fountain is easier than ever!

Disappearing Fountains are safe for young children because there is no open water. They provide water for pets and wildlife. Birds often visit Disappearing Fountains for a drink of water; and the shallow waterfall basins make great birdbaths.

Disappearing Fountains can be created from nearly anything. Our choices are single water features or tiered waterfalls made from hand-hewn tuff tinajas and limestone column fountains.

Water Feature Choices

Tuff tinajas and limestone column fountains will last forever and no two are alike. Fabricated fountains just don't compare to a natural water feature. The difference is visually noticeable. Also, as fabricated fountains age, the constant water begins to erode the fabrication material and expose the underlying strengthening components.

Directions to Install:

Step 1. Dig your hole about 14" deep and fill the bottom with 1" of sand.

Step 2. Place the reservoir in the excavation and level.



Step 3. Place some weight into the reservoir to help hold it in place and backfill soil around the box packing in firmly.

Step 4. Place the concrete blocks in the box; one in each corner and one bridging the adjoining pieces of grating (including the trap door).



Step 5. Place 2-3 concrete blocks (depending on the piece) in the middle. For light pieces place the grating on top of the concrete blocks. Heavy pieces require several concrete blocks and must sit directly on the blocks with the grate cut away to go around the piece. **See important notice at end of these instructions on page 4.**

Note: Recommended minimum number of 8" x 8" x 16" Concrete Blocks:

| | |
|--------------------|--------|
| 2' x 2' Reservoir: | 2 |
| 3' x 3' Reservoir: | 3 to 4 |
| 4' x 4' Reservoir: | 4 to 6 |

Step 6. Place the mesh over the grating.



Step 7. Cut a hole in the mesh for the tubing.

Step 8. Connect the tubing to the piece (leave a fairly long piece of tubing exiting the fountain.)



Step 9. Place the pump inside the box. We recommend using a flow control valve on the output and a filter on the intake of the pump to protect the pump.

Step 10. Connect the tubing to the pump flow control valve and clamp.



Step 11. Put the decorative topping (see next page for choices) around the piece on top of the grating and mesh.

Step 12. Turn on pump and enjoy.



Experience pays off!

We've learned this the hard way:

1. Always connect the tubing to the piece and then to the pump not the other way around.
2. We also recommend installing a valve on all pumps to control the flow of water coming out of the piece to match your expectations.

Choose the right Reservoir

Although you may be tempted to opt for a smaller reservoir due to space, labor and cost considerations there are some good reasons to go with a larger reservoir.

1. The larger the reservoir the greater volume of water it can hold and the less often you need to re-fill it.
2. Tall pieces 4' or higher need a bigger box, water droplets have farther to fall and thus tend to splash out of the reservoir boundaries.
3. Larger reservoirs give you the opportunity to add additional pieces to your fountain display.
4. Larger reservoirs allow for a greater water flow creating more water "music".

Reservoirs & Installation

All reservoirs include the liner, grating and plastic mesh.

Pumps have 18' cords. Before digging check for buried utilities, cables, and sprinkler systems.

Note: custom sized timber and liner constructed boxes can be made for unique situations. Please ask for a quote.

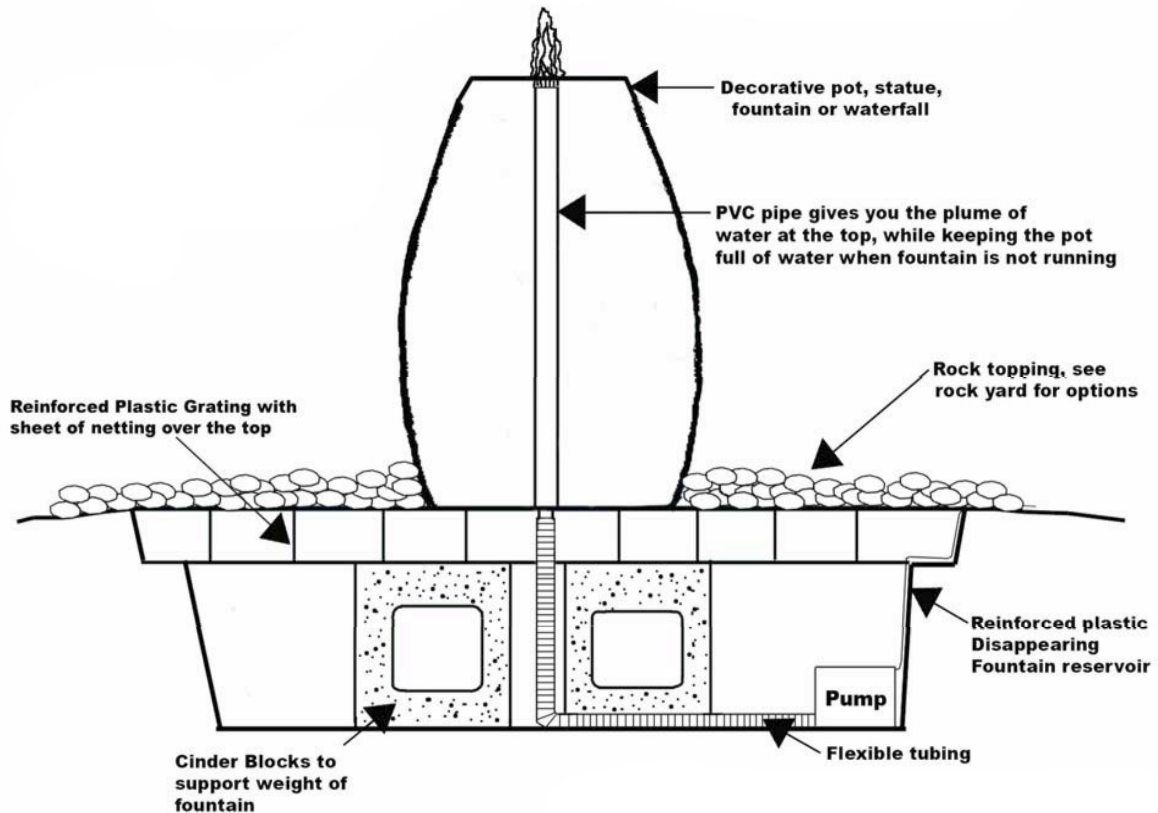
Care of your Disappearing Fountain

The reservoir must be kept filled with water and can be accomplished in several ways:

1. Fill the fountain as needed with a garden hose.
2. Site the fountain near an irrigation head, so the sprinkler keeps the reservoir filled. We do not recommend using automatic fill devices because they frequently "stick" and don't shut off.
3. The fountain piece will need to be scrubbed occasionally to remove algae and scale. Fountec (safe for birds and pets) can be used to control algae growth but must be added every week. Use Protec to minimize hard water stains (especially on dark fountains or fountains close to windows) on a monthly basis.

Note: Some folks prefer the natural patina of algae on the fountain pieces, in which case no scrubbing or Fountec is necessary.

Cut-away View of Water Feature



Important Fountain Support Notice:

The purpose of the concrete blocks is to support the water feature weight. These blocks should be strategically placed to accomplish this objective.