



Fountain Care

Thank you for purchasing a genuine cast stone fountain from Florence & New Italian Art Company! We hope your new fountain will provide you with years of enjoyment. Follow these few tips to help make sure your fountain works properly, looks better, and lasts longer.

Check Water Levels

Don't let the pump run dry! Pumps are designed to be used only when fully submerged in water. If they run dry for an extended period of time, they will burn out and will then need to be replaced. Fountains will lose water to evaporation (depending on weather) and splash (depending on design) at different rates, so always remember to check on the water level of your fountain. If you hear the pump making slurping sounds or see bubbles at the top of the fountain, that's a good sign that you need to add water. Simply add clean water using a garden hose or bucket!

NOTE: In very hot weather, do not add cold water to a hot fountain as this may cause a thermal shock to the cast stone and result in cracking. We recommend you fill your fountain in the early morning or late evening.

Control Algae Growth

Mother Nature has a way of colonizing just about any pool of water with algae, which will grow anywhere there is light and water. Algae growth is natural to fountains and unfortunately, will turn the water green and slimy. Extreme algae growth will also clog the pump and possibly stain the fountain. To help prevent algae build up in your fountain, we suggest using an algaecide, such as Fountec, in the water on a weekly basis. Remember that birds, wildlife, and even domestic pets may drink the water from your fountain, so make sure the algaecide you use is safe. We do not recommend putting chlorine bleach in the water as this may damage the seals in the pump, discolor the fountain, and harm anything drinking the water.

Clean Your Fountain and Pump Periodically

When you check the water level of the fountain, remove any debris, such as leaves and twigs, at the same time. If left in the fountain, they may end up clogging the pump and prevent the water from circulating properly. In order to keep your fountain looking good and working properly, the entire fountain and pump should be cleaned every 1-2 months. Always remember

to unplug the pump before cleaning both fountain and pump. After emptying the fountain bowl, remove dirt and sediment using a soft terry cloth towel, a soft bristle brush, and mild soap if necessary. Wash any noticeable white mineral deposits as soon as possible (before they calcify) using a white vinegar/water mixture. For stubborn deposits, let the white vinegar solution sit for a period of time and then wipe off. Never use bleach or other harsh chemicals, nor high pressure power wash the fountain, as these can cause damage to the finish. When you clean your fountain, you should also clean the pump at the same time to make sure it is free and clear of debris and obstructions.

Winter Fountain Care

Since cast stone is porous by nature, it tends to absorb water. Extreme cold weather causes the water trapped in the pores to freeze and expand, causing the fountain to crack and crumble. Since ice damage is not covered under warranty, steps must be taken to protect your fountain during winter. Damage to your fountain from winter conditions will not occur if one important rule is followed:

DO NOT ALLOW WATER TO COLLECT AND FREEZE IN THE FOUNTAIN AND DO NOT ALLOW YOUR FOUNTAIN TO SIT IN A POOL OF ICE!

If possible, it is always best to move the fountain indoors for the winter. When this is not feasible, you must at least protect it from ice collection. Ideally, the fountain should be allowed to dry up before winter sets in and ensure it remains dry through the winter. After the fountain has been emptied of water and allowed to dry out, fill the bowls with an absorbent material, such as burlap, and cover the entire fountain with an appropriate fountain cover or heavy duty plastic and twine. Should condensation form on the inside of the plastic, these materials will absorb it. Make sure to check your fountain during the winter season often in order to prevent any unexpected water accumulation.