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Architectural Cast Stone Products

A Division of Speros Enterprises, Inc.

## WATER FEATURE INSTALLATION GUIDELINES

### FOUNTAIN PLACEMENTS

- All fountains can cause an over splash regardless of style or design. Avoid placing your fountain where delicate surfaces could be damaged by splashing.
- Try to place the fountain in an area where it is unlikely to be bumped.
- Keep pets, children, or anyone from sitting, leaning, or climbing on any of the fountain components.
- The location you choose for your fountain should be firm and level, both for safety and the fountain's performance. Fountains with a basin should be installed on a thin layer of sand, approximately ½ to 1 inch in depth. This will reduce the risk of stress cracks to the basin and will help with leveling. Pedestal-style fountains should be installed on a firm, level foundation. If needed, a concrete stepping-stone can be used as a base to avoid erosion caused by rain, sprinklers or splash from the fountain. The use of a stepping-stone will also prevent the fountain from becoming unbalanced.
- Fountains that are placed around plants or under trees could collect organic debris in the water that may clog the pump. Direct sunlight promotes the growth of algae. The use of an algaecide is imperative for all fountains.
- Fountains should be close to an electrical outlet for the pump. Do not use an extension cord. Typically, the pump will require a three-pronged 110-volt ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI).
- Position the fountain so that no water can spill or splash onto the electrical outlet. Loop the cord below the outlet so that if water runs down the cord, it will drip off the cord before reaching the outlet.
- Standard cord length for most fountain pumps is 6 feet. Keep in mind that for pedestal fountains, the cord must travel up the pedestal to the point where the pump is located. Some pump brands offer a 20-foot cord.
- Water supply lines for floats should be located within a few feet of the fountain and connected to a city-approved backflow prevention device. Flush the supply line of any debris before connecting.

### FOUNTAIN INSTALLATION

- Refer to ANCIENT STONE® Product Installation Guidelines for instructions related to the assembly/installation of your ANCIENT STONE® water feature.
- For fountains with basins made in sections, ensure a waterproof seal on the inside of the basin. Seal the ANCIENT STONE® components and any cement-based grout liberally with ANCIENT STONE® PENETRATING SEALER. If cracks in the joints develop, they can be sealed with a clear or color-matched siliconized caulk. Alternatively, the interior of the fountain including basin walls can be covered with a skim coat of cement based waterproofing and then tiled for a waterproof finish.

## **FOUNTAIN INSTALLATION (con't.)**

- We recommend ANCIENT STONE® products be sealed with ANCIENT STONE® PENETRATING SEALER after installation is complete and before filling with water. Brush the surface to be sealed clean. Follow the instructions on the sealer label. *Special note: For all ANCIENT STONE® products with colored texture, apply a light misting of penetrating sealer to allow the colored texture to “set” prior to liberal application of sealer. Failure to do so will result in running or smearing of the texture color over the base stone color.*

## **FOUNTAIN CARE**

- Routine maintenance of your fountain is essential for optimal enjoyment. Always check the water before starting the pump and fill to the proper level. Depending on your climate, you will need to check the water level every 1 to 3 days. Never let the fountain run dry, as lack of water will burn out the pump motor. We recommend the use of reverse osmosis or distilled water in the fountain to protect the finish and prolong the pump life. Do not use water from a water softener that uses salt to soften the water.
- Fountain pumps are not designed to run 24 hours a day. Operating time should consist of 8 to 10 hours a day. It is not recommended that fountains be left running during the night, or when you are not at home, as the water level cannot be monitored.
- Drain and clean the fountain using a soft cloth or sponge. ANCIENT STONE® CLEANING SOLUTION can be used to clean stains or blemishes. Do not use any abrasive or harsh chemicals that can damage the finish. Change the water frequently. Depending on the temperature, and resulting evaporation, you may see a buildup of white residue on the fountain surface as a result of the mineral content in your water supply. As is common with concrete products, your fountain may experience this efflorescence (mineral deposits) due to the natural occurrence of alkali content in the water and concrete.
- Routine monthly maintenance will add the life of your pump. Use a small brush and a strong stream of water to clean the impeller and the screen on the pump. Flushing water backwards through the pump while the pump is off helps to remove debris from the screen.
- Be cautious of leaves and other materials that might fall into the water and clog the pump screen. Pets, birds, or children may place objects in the fountain. Some fountains contain piping that can collect debris. This piping may need to be flushed out with a strong stream of water periodically.
- Pumps may be cleaned using 2 cups of white vinegar to a gallon of water. Soak the pump in a container filled with the vinegar-water solution for a few minutes, then with the pump still in the solution, plug the pump in and let it run for about 30 minutes. The vinegar solution should loosen the lime or calcium deposits in the pump. When cleaning the pump, be sure to remove any debris (leaves, twigs, etc.) from the screen.
- An algaecide should be used routinely to prevent algae from growing in the fountain. Chlorine based products should never be used for algae control as it will damage the metal parts in the pump. Do not allow algae to grow, as it will damage the fountain and cause the pump motor to overheat and possibly burn out.
- Reseal your fountain with ANCIENT STONE® PENETRATING SEALER annually or more often depending on use and climate.