

# COPPER FOUNTAIN MAINTENANCE



## FOR COPPER TREE AND FLOWER CARE

### COPPER IS A DELICATE YET DURABLE METAL

Keeping your beautiful, unique investment in optimal working order isn't difficult if you are aware of a few situations depending on temperature and weather severity in your area. Overall, minimal maintenance is required for our Copper Fountains and these tips should help with our goal for you to spend more time enjoying your water feature than working on it.

#### FOR EXTREME HOT WEATHER

If you live in the desert regions or where temperatures climb above 100 degrees, copper leaves can become so hot they may "wilt." Copper is very pliable so the leaves can be pressed and shaped back into shape but you may consider moving the fountain to a shadier area.

Our Copper Trees and Flowers are hand made by our designer in the most tranquil place in the midst of the deep woodlands in England. Every single element of these sculpted fountains, including the leaves, are hand cut and hand made creating the most beautiful of fountains. No two pieces are exactly identical ensuring individuality and zest in all designs. Even better, you may add your own touch by adjusting the leaves to create your own water flow design. Do this by gently bending the leaves until you achieve the look and flow that you desire.

#### Copper Leaves

Small leaves and/or branches may detach from the tree from time to time (wind, physical damage, seasonal changes). This is normal and can be remedied by soldering/gluing them back on.

#### Patina

When oxygen in the air interacts with the metal atoms in the presence of water, the formation of patina occurs. Very noticeable and desirable in copper decor, it will change color over time as patina develops. No fountain will ever look like another as they attain their unique coloration changes over time. This makes copper a living metal!

## ROUTINE WATER TREATMENTS

Water treatment use depends on product, time of season, and condition of the water feature. Use as directed. Safe for wildlife.



### ALGAE D-SOLV®

CrystalClear Algae D-Solv is a 5.4% active EPA registered liquid algaecide. This preventative treatment targets string algae, blanket weed and green water caused by single-celled algae. CrystalClear Algae D-Solv contains no copper and is safe for wildlife when used as directed.

**USE weekly at first for preventative maintenance, then every other week to manage algae growth.**

### ALGAEOFF®

CrystalClear AlgaeOff is an EPA registered water-activated granular algaecide. This spot treatment that works on contact. It kills and removes active growing algae on your water feature and surrounding rocks.

**USE as a spot treatment to kill off visible algae growth on your water feature and surrounding stones.**



### MUCK BUSTER®

Beneficial bacteria with barley and enzymes help break down organic debris that leads to clogging and decreased flow of the pump. For use after algaecide treatment when sludge begins developing from decaying algae. **DO NOT USE Muck Buster at the same time as an algaecide.** Accidental usage of both together won't actually hurt anything but your pocketbook, algaecides kill the beneficial bacteria in Muck Buster, lowering its effectiveness. Wait at least 4-5 days after algaecide treatment to apply Muck Buster.

**USE every other week on the opposite week of your algaecide treatment to help clear build up from dead algae and other organic debris.**

If you have additional questions on how to maintain your water feature, please visit our website at [shopbluethumb.com](http://shopbluethumb.com)

# COPPER FOUNTAIN CARE

## BLUE THUMB MAINTENANCE SUGGESTIONS

### GENERAL MAINTENANCE

#### Keeping Water Clear

Water clarity is important. The included pump will have shipped in a stainless steel mesh filter bag that should be scrubbed clean every few months to clear accumulation of any algae that collects on the filter. This fine mesh is a filter that has been created especially for these fountains so no debris is allowed to reach the tiny pipes running through the branches.

**The mesh bag must protect the pump at all times** to ensure that the fine tubing used in our copper fountain designs do not become clogged over time.

**To Clean the Stainless Mesh Bag:** Turn off the fountain. Access the pump through the hatch. Pull out the pump assembly. Clean with running water and a sponge, making sure water flows through the bag freely before reinstalling.

**To Clean your AquaBox® Basin:** With the fountain turned off, pump out the water using a wet/dry vacuum to remove as much sediment as possible. Once you have finished cleaning the basin, refill with clean water. Just remember to add your beneficial bacteria after you refill to keep it looking clean and optimize pump flow.

#### System Checks

Inspect pump, tubing, and connections regularly to make sure everything is running smoothly, and no damage has been sustained. Look for leaks where you could be losing water.

#### Water Level Monitoring

Pumps need a constant supply of water, if your water level drops too much it can damage your pump and you will need to replace it. Check water levels in basin and top off from time to time or install an Automatic Water Fill Kit (Item# PB1342) to automatically refill evaporated and splashed water.



### WINTERIZING

Freezing can burst the copper pipe branches of your Copper Tree Fountain and also cause issues with your fountain's pump system. To prevent the risk of damage.

**FOR AREAS THAT DIP BELOW FREEZING** disconnect the pump from the fountain during these spells.

**IF TEMPS ARE BELOW FREEZING FOR EXTENDED PERIODS OF TIME**, as in Northern States where copper water pipes are known to burst when frozen, we recommend removing both the pump and fountain for the winter.

**Here are the things we recommend doing when shutting your system down for winter:**

Gently scrub fountain using a soft bristle brush and spray rocks to break down any attached debris. This helps make Spring Start-up easier.

#### Remove the Fountain and Pump from the basin

Do not allow water to freeze inside the tubes - this will cause irreparable damage to the feature that is not covered by the warranty. **It is suggested you bring the feature inside during the winter to prevent damage, as it is difficult to ensure all water is out of the feature's tubes.**

To winterize your pump, unplug and pull it out of the Fountain Basin. Clean off any scale and debris, then submerge in a 5-gallon bucket filled with water to keep the seals lubricated. Store the bucket where it will not freeze, like your basement, heated garage, etc.

**DO NOT drain the basin for the winter.** It is best to keep the basin at least 50% filled with water to avoid heaving during freeze and thaw. Drain and refill in spring during your seasonal cleaning.

**If you have a light kit installed:** Lights are okay to be left outside but avoid having the controller and remote exposed to snow.

**NOTE:** Winter damage is not covered under warranty.



### SPRING START-UP

It's easy to get your fountain flowing clear after the last freeze when starting up your Copper Fountain after a winter shut down.

#### Clean up Debris

Start by picking up any unwanted sticks, leaves, and other debris.

Rinse all rocks down with a hose or pressure washer, blowing out debris along the way. Do this a few times to ensure a good cleaning.

#### Clean out Basin

Once you are satisfied with your stone wash, make sure that the bottom of the Fountain Basin is free of debris and gravel.

Remove as much sediment as possible using a wet/dry vacuum. Once you have finished cleaning the basin, refill with clean water.

#### Reinstall Pump

Visually inspect your pump for damage before reconnecting. Make sure the mesh filter bag is clean, so the pump doesn't get blocked and cause damage or failure. Place pump in your basin and connect the plumbing.

Fill your water feature basin to desired height using your garden hose and plug in your pump.

#### Once the Copper Fountain is Running

**Add Muck Buster®** to the running fountain to replenish good bacteria to further break down any remaining waste. You may start an algae preventative a few days after your water runs clear.

**If you have a light kit installed:** Check positioning of lights, clean lenses, and check for burned out bulbs.

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