



DIY Handcrafted Rock Fountain Kits Installation Manual



Blue Thumb

For Use With GFRC Handcrafted
Single or Triple Rock Kits
on a 2x2 or 4x4 Basin

INCLUDED in this kit:

Blue Thumb makes installation of your **Handcrafted GFRC Fountain Bubbler Rock Kit** easy by following these instructions.

Subscribe to our YouTube channel, **BlueThumbINC**, for related informational videos.



**Tools necessary
for installation:**

- Scissors or utility knife
- Shovel
- Tamp or Rake
- Level
- Marker paint (optional)

IMPORTANT: WHEN UNBOXING, MOVING, OR INSTALLING YOUR GFRC FOUNTAIN(S), DO NOT LIFT OR CARRY THE FOUNTAIN BY THE HOSE UNION ASSEMBLY THAT EXTENDS INSIDE THE FOUNTAIN.



STEP 1

Choose Your Fountain Base Location

Choose a location for the basin/reservoir and use the base (or marker paint, if available) to mark the ground.

Note: When choosing a location for your fountain select an area large enough to accommodate the basin AND any possible water overspray from wind. The basin should not be put near vegetation or structures not suitable for excessively wet conditions.

IMPORTANT: BEFORE EXCAVATION BEGINS BE SURE TO CALL MISS DIG OR YOUR UTILITY COMPANY.

STEP 2

Dig the Fountain Basin Hole

Follow the outline and dig a hole deep enough for the basin. You want the top edge of the basin to extend above grade by about 1". If the soil is unstable, dig the hole 3" deeper and back-fill with 3" of crushed rock or gravel. This will provide a solid fountain for the fountain basin.



STEP 3

Level the Fountain Basin

3a Insert the fountain basin into the hole and use a level to make sure the basin is level from front-to-back and side-to-side.



Position Your Fountain Basin

Note that near one corner of the basin there is a spinweld fitting installed in the basin. This can be used with our optional water Auto Fill Kit should you desire (see item# ABDAUTO on Page 4) but for now it's important that corner is facing the direction of your electrical outlet.

Above: The corner grate piece at bottom right is used to access the pump on a 2x2 basin.

This corner of the basin is where your pump will be installed. Simply rotate the basin until the corner with the spinweld is in the desired location.

Below: A 4x4 basin is covered during backfill.

3b Use previously removed soil to backfill around the fountain basin. Be sure to pack the dirt in as tightly as possible to prevent future settling.



STEP 4

Install the Pump and Plumbing

4a For a single 2x2 Fountain Basin: Thread the included Ball Valve Fitting onto the pump then hand-tighten one end of the hose to the gray union on the pump.

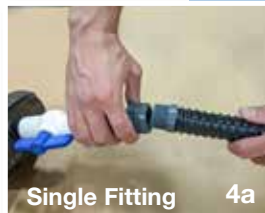
Lay the pump on its side inside the basin for ease of plumbing installation in the tight space of the 2x2 basin.

4b For a double or triple 4x4 Basin: A Pump Discharge Assembly Manifold comes attached to the Pump. If not attached, gently turn manifold 1 to 3 turns. Do not over tighten.

The hoses are notched on the end that will attach to the rock. This notch is used for installing an optional Plume Lighting Kit (item# 2903).

Set Pump Assembly in the corner of basin. Hoses will be threaded through the provided holes in the grate and screen.

Run the pump power cord up through the access corner.



Single Fitting



Triple Manifold



Optional Auto Fill Kit Install

Item: #ABDAUTO

If an Auto Fill Kit is being incorporated, you may bury your water supply line and make any Auto Fill connections at this time.



STEP 5

Install Grate and Polymesh Screen

Place the grate on top of the basin oriented with the pump access corner panel over the pump.

If you have the **2x2 basin** you will have a single grate with triangular piece cut for pump access.

If you have the **4x4 basin** you will have two grates to piece together with one of them cut for pump access.

Lay the polymesh screen on top of the grates matching the pre-cut mesh holes to the drilled grate holes.



STEP 6

Attach the Bubbler Rock(s)

6a Take the threaded end of the hose that is notched and pull up through the grating and then through the matching small pre-cut hole cut in the polymesh screen. The hoses are intentionally notched for optional lighting installation. If installing Plume Lighting, see instructions following Step 8. If not, simply connect the hose to the hose union.



6b Place the bubbler rock on the basin near the protruding hose. Tilt rock on edge and hand-tighten the hose to the union assembly on the underside of the rock. Carefully stand the rock upright while keeping the flex hose from binding where it extends through the grate.

Repeat if you have more than one bubbler rock. Gently adjust the rock placement(s) to your liking.



STEP 7

Fill and Test

Fill the basin reservoir with water. The water level should be at or near the bottom of the grate. Check and adjust the water level periodically.

Turn on the pump by plugging it into a grounded GFCI (Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter) 110 volt electrical outlet.

You may plug the pump into any outdoor rated timer (not included) if you wish to only have the fountain running during certain hours of the day.



STEP 8

Water Flow Control

8a For 4x4 double or triple fountains: To achieve the desired sound and aesthetic flow, adjust the rate of water to each of your bubblers by turning the ball valve handle on your **pump discharge assembly** until the desired flow is obtained.



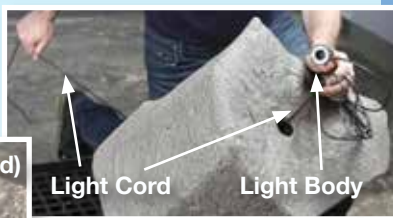
8b A **Plume Insert** has also been placed in the fountain for water pressure adjustment. It compresses water flow for an enhanced plume on this kit while allowing easy installation of optional plume lighting shown below.



Lighting Add-On: If installing the **optional Plume Light Kit** (item# PB2903) the **Plume Insert** is replaced by the **Light Body**.

Note on Lights:

The **Plume Insert** is removed for **Light** placement. The male thread on the hose is notched for the light electric cord to pass through. Detailed lighting installation instructions are included with Plume Light Kit purchase.



STEP 9

Finishing Touches

Your fountain is now ready for the final touches of landscape design. Start by covering your polymesh screen with river rock or other decorative rock products. There are many styles and colors available, and these can be found at any rock yard or garden center.

Avoid placing soil or mulch on top of the screen as it may fall through the screen and clog your pump. Use landscape plants to decorate around your basin completing the look.



SHARE!



Inspire others by visiting our Blue Thumb Facebook and Instagram pages to post a picture of your completed project for all to see!

GFRC HANDCRAFTED BUBBLER ROCK

Tips to keep your bubbler rocks looking great!

Our GFRC (Glass Fiber Reinforced Concrete) bubblers are designed to provide years of enjoyment, with minimal care or maintenance required. Because they are made of concrete, they are very rugged and will withstand the elements without color fade or discoloration common in inferior faux stones.

Cleaning - Dirt spots

GFRC rocks will age in a very similar manner as natural stones. If you need to clean the rocks, a good blast from a garden hose will usually work, although mild soap and a soft-bristle brush can be used as well.

Cleaning - Algae and moss

Over time, moss and algae may develop on your rock, just as it would on natural stone. The time it takes will depend on how often you have your fountain turned on, how much shade or sunlight it gets, and how often fresh water is added to the fountain base. If your rock is accumulating more moss or algae than you desire we recommend using Algae D-Solv® and a soft bristle brush to reduce moss/algae growth.



**Scan the QR code
for a quick video
demonstration on
how easy it is to
clean your rock
fountain!**

Efflorescence - Causes and cleaning / removal

Any material containing Portland cement (pre-cast stone, GFRC products, etc) has the potential to effloresce. Efflorescence is caused when soluble salts and other water materials come to the surface of concrete and mortar. Most often, efflorescence will be minor, and can manifest itself in a couple of ways - either as a powdery, fluffy substance, which is brushed off with a nylon-bristle scrub brush, or as a crystallized deposit on the rock.

To keep efflorescence to a minimum, run your bubbler non-stop for three to four weeks after first installing the fountain. **If efflorescence appears, do not let it dry!** While it is wet, scrub the area with the nylon-bristle brush, until the efflorescence is gone. This may need to be repeated until all the salt has been worked out of the rock. The key is to not let any efflorescence dry! If the efflorescence has been allowed to dry and has attached itself to the rock, then an efflorescence remover (such as Techni-Seal), is recommended. Even with that, some staining or efflorescence may remain which is why rocks should not be allowed to dry until any efflorescence has been worked out of the rocks.

Winterization of your fountain

In colder climates where temperatures reach 32°F on a regular basis, or where temperatures will drop substantially below freezing even for short periods of time, you should shut your fountain off during the cold months. Remove the pump by disconnecting from the valve/manifold assembly. Store the pump in a bucket of water (to prevent the pump seals from drying out) in a temperature controlled atmosphere (above freezing). **Leave the water in the reservoir, do not empty it.** This helps keep the basin from shifting during frost heave.

FOUNTAIN CARE AND MAINTENANCE

Electrical precautions

Always use a properly grounded outlet. Do not immerse the pump plug in water. If the plug falls into the water, **DO NOT REACH INTO THE WATER TO REMOVE THE PUMP PLUG. TURN OFF THE CIRCUIT FIRST!** A “drip loop” should be used. The “drip loop” is a loop in the electrical cord below the level of the receptacle or plug, which prevents water from traveling along the cord. The National Electric Code requires a ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) be installed in the branch circuit supplying fountain or pond equipment.

WARNING: NEVER REMOVE THE GROUND PIN FROM THE ELECTRICAL PLUG. FOR YOUR PROTECTION, ALWAYS UNPLUG THE PUMP UNIT FROM ITS POWER SOURCE BEFORE INSTALLING OR SERVICING YOUR FOUNTAIN. SHOULD THE UNIT APPEAR TO NOT BE WORKING PROPERLY, DO NOT REACH FOR, REMOVE OR DISASSEMBLE THE PUMP BEFORE YOU DISCONNECT THE POWER!

Pump service and maintenance

Periodically inspect and clean the pre-filter. To clean, remove pre-filter from the water pump and rinse using clean water. Replace the pre-filter if it becomes damaged or torn.

The cap over the impeller should occasionally be removed to clean and inspect the impeller assembly. The impeller is the only serviceable item and can be pulled out of the pump body. **Do not take the impeller apart.** If it is worn or broken, the entire impeller assembly should be replaced. This will restore the pump to its original functionality. Pumps taken out of service for an extended period with fluid inside run the risk of forming a crust, which may prevent subsequent starting. Saltwater should be flushed out with fresh water. Always check the electrical cord for sharp bends, which can cause premature cracking. **Do not use the power cord to lift or move the pump.**

Reservoir maintenance

Handcrafted GFRC fountain kits are designed to require very little maintenance. Because of the “pondless” design, there are no filters to change and very little if any debris should get into your water reservoir. However, periodic attention is suggested to identify any potential issues before they start.

Check and adjust water level periodically, keeping the water level at or near the bottom of the grating and no lower than the water pump outlet. Also, remove any dirt, rock or debris from inside the fountain base that may cause damage to the water pump or flexible hose.

Note: Due to overspray and evaporation, clean water must be added periodically. Failing to do so could cause the water pump to run dry, resulting in a damaged pump. Damage to the pump due to an inadequate water level will void the limited warranty. Periodically inspect the grating and polymesh screen for damage. Replace if necessary.

If you need replacement parts please contact us directly at
888-619-3474 or email us at **sales@bluethumbponds.com**.

Go to www.shopbluethumb.com for additional information and tutorial videos.



Maintenance

General Fountain and System Maintenance

- It is OK to run pump continuously 24/7, or you may choose to connect it to a timer.
- Regularly check the water level in the basin. Never allow the water to drop below the pump, as this can lead to pump failure.
- Fill evaporated water as necessary or considering installing an Auto Fill Kit #ABDAUTO.
- Add Muck Buster® #PB2682 every couple of weeks to the basin to ensure muck doesn't build-up over time and clog the pump. 3 tablets treat 500 gallons of water.
- If algae forms on the rock columns, brush off and use CrystalClear® Algae D-Solv® #PB2002 to quickly clear organic debris and remove odors. 1 ounce treats 360 gallons. You may also use a soft bristle brush to clean algae off of the columns.



Auto Fill Kit
#ABDAUTO

Winterizing:

- If you live in a climate that experiences prolonged freezing conditions, we recommend removing the pump from the basin when temperatures begin to drop below freezing. To remove the pump, disconnect from the valve/manifold assembly. Place the pump in a bucket of water in a temperature controlled atmosphere (above freezing). This prevents the pump seals from drying out.
- **Do not drain the basin during the winter months.** Allow the water to freeze in the basin so that the ground doesn't cause the basin to rise or "pop up" from expansion of the freezing soil around it. Leave basin 50% full of water.
- Our GFRC Fountains are manufactured to withstand freezing conditions and may be left outside during the winter months if you choose. There is no need to cover the Fountains, but you may do so if you desire, patio furniture covers work well.



Muck Buster®
#PB2682

Spring Start-Up:

- Once everything has thawed in the spring we recommend draining the water in the basin and replacing it with fresh, clean water. A wet/dry vacuum works well for removing water and accumulated debris.
- Reconnect the pump and plug it in.
- Add Muck Buster® to remove any remaining muck that was not able to be removed manually.



Algae D-Solv®
#PB2002

If you need replacement parts please contact us directly at **888-619-3474** or email us at **sales@bluethumbponds.com**.

Now, snap a picture of your completed waterfall and post it to our Facebook page at facebook.com/bluethumbinc!

www.shopbluethumb.com

