



# **Real Stone Triple Fountain Kit Installation Manual**



For use with  
Triple Stone Column Fountains  
on Achelous Basin

## Included in this Kit:

Blue Thumb makes installation of your triple column stone fountain kit easy by following these instructions.

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



## STEP 1

### Choose Location for Basin

**1a** Locate your fountain near your preferred viewing area where both water and electricity services are accessible. Be certain to avoid underground utilities.



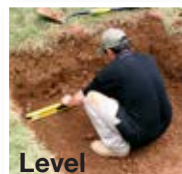
**1b** Clear the area and prepare to excavate by tracing the fountain basin using marking paint.

## STEP 2

### Excavation of Basin Area



**2a** Using a shovel dig 90 degrees into the ground, slightly wider and just as deep as the fountain basin making sure to remove any sharp rocks or roots.



**2b** NOTE: If installing a splash apron, make sure the basin is about 2" below grade, allowing you to slope the surrounding terrain toward the basin.



**IMPORTANT** Level the bottom of the hole across the entire basin, add sand or small gravel if needed. Tamp to ensure no settling occurs after installation. Check again to make sure the center is level with the edges.

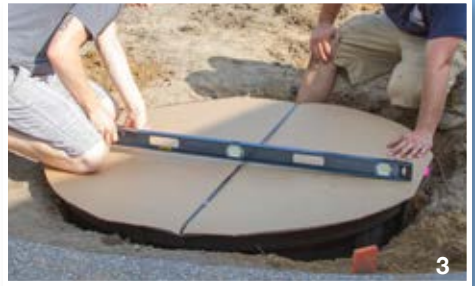


## STEP 3

### Set Basin in Place

Position the basin within the hole. Make sure the pump opening in the grate is orientated near electrical service.

If installing the splash apron, set basin in the hole and verify that the basin top is level and approximately 2" below grade.



## STEP 4

### Level

Using a level, ensure the fountain basin remains level side to side. **The basin should sit solidly on the compacted and leveled ground below.** Hanging the lip of the basin on the surface can cause the basin center to buckle.



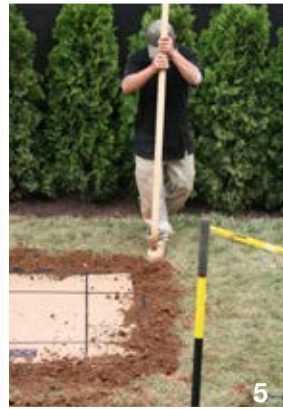
## STEP 5

### Backfill

Backfill around the box and soil using excavated soil or self-compacting material, such as sand or pea gravel. When using excavated soil be sure to regularly compact with a tamper.

If your basin included a cardboard cover leave it in place while you backfill to prevent soil from falling into the basin.

**Note: The more solid the soil is around and below the reservoir, the less shifting over time from settling and rain.**



## Important Before Filling your Basin

**Once Achelous Basin is in place, clean basin area of any loose dirt.**

Remove cardboard and vacuum out any dirt that may have fallen into the basin then wipe clean before adding water. Keep that pump happy with a clean basin full of clear water!

**You may fill your basin with clean water at this point to stabilize the basin, or you may wait until your fountains are in place.**

*NOTE: Normal evaporation is about 1-2" weekly, however, that is dependent on your region. Many factors including humidity, rainfall, wind, and splash will determine exactly how frequently you need to refill.*





## Regarding Grate Orientation

The two halves of the grate may look nearly identical on the top and bottom, but be sure to identify the top side, which features a lip where the Pump Access Cover rests. The grate halves are designed to meet over two support columns, ensuring maximum strength. An additional PVC center support may be included for added stability.

## STEP 7 Fountain Placement



If helpful, you may place grates and temporarily set fountains. The fountains can be as close together or as far apart as you like.

We recommend a “Y” pattern using the elongated holes for best strength and stability.

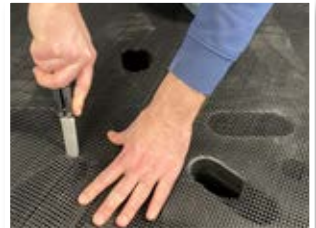


**Note:** For linear placement, such as with the Triple Split Basalt, use center and two adjacent elongated holes on each side of the center.

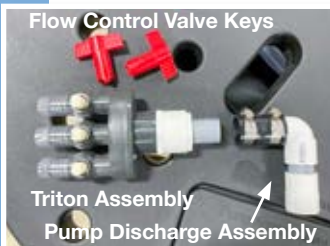


## STEP 8 Basin Screen Prep

Lay the screen over the basin grates and cut holes in the screen according to your fountain positioning.



## STEP 9 Connect Pump Plumbing



**9a** The tubing is in fixed lengths of 8', 7', and 5'. These lengths correspond to the height of the water features with the longest hose going to the tallest fountain. On the Triton there is a 3/4" expander piece of tubing over the barbed connector. You will slide the 1" tubing over this 3/4" tubing. It's a tight fit but is easy if you heat the end of 1" tubing in hot water to make it pliable.

**9b** Attach 90° discharge elbow assembly to the pump.

**9c** Slide the Triton 3-way splitter valve and tubing onto the discharge assembly. Tighten the hose clamps.



If plume lighting has been purchased, read Page 5 now, otherwise skip to page 6.

## Proceed to Step 10 if Plume Lighting was Not Ordered

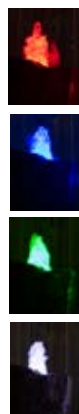


### Internal Plume Lighting Add-on Kit

If your Triple Stone Fountains are pre-drilled for the optional IllumiGlow® Fountain Plume Lighting Kit, follow the instructions provided in the lighting kit before returning to **STEP 10**.



Kit Item: #PB2903



### Basic RGB LED Plume Lighting Set Up – See lighting kit for full instructions

**Note:** When installing lighting with your kit your tubing will be 3/4" instead of 1" and you will not need tubing expanders when attaching to the pump assembly.



**STEP 1** Drop the Light Cord (4) from the top of the fountain to the bottom and pull through until set.



**STEP 2** Hold the Light Cord (4) and push the Tubing (3) that is attached to the pump from the bottom up to the top.

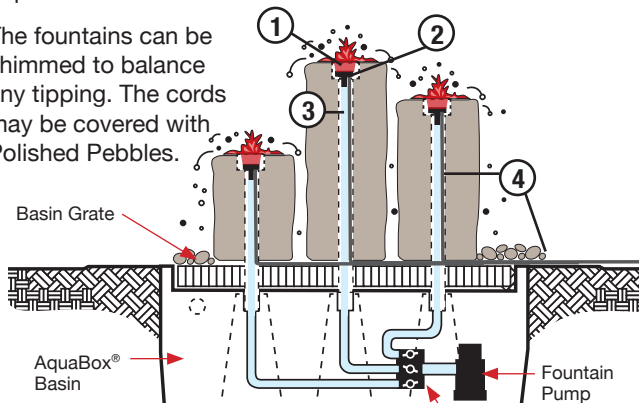
**STEP 3A** (Fountain top) Connect the Tubing (3) to the Barbed Connector (2) at the bottom of the RGB LED Light (1). You won't need o-rings, the lights will hold the tubing in place.

**STEP 3B** (Fountain bottom) Hold the Light Cord (4) while tipping up the fountain making sure that you don't pinch the Tubing (3).



**STEP 4** At the fountain base, pull the Light Cords (4), lay above the grate screen, and direct them to the Splitter. Repeat with other two fountains.

The fountains can be shimmed to balance any tipping. The cords may be covered with Polished Pebbles.



Triton Flow Valve Assembly



## STEP 10

### Install PVC Support and Pump Assembly

**10a** If included in your kit, install the PVC support under this grate in the center of the basin. This support provides additional strength with heavier fountains.

Set pump assembly in the basin, notice how the tubing curls around in the basin before coming up through the fountains.



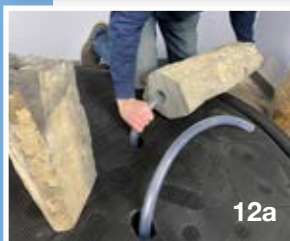
**10b** Make sure the plumbing has no kinks or twists, which will cause a reduction in water flow, and possibly no flow at all, in that particular line.



## STEP 11

### Pull Tubing Through

Pull all three tubing pieces through the grate about 12" or so, noting which is longest and which is shortest. Put the screen over the tubing matching the holes you have cut.



## STEP 12

### Fountain Setup

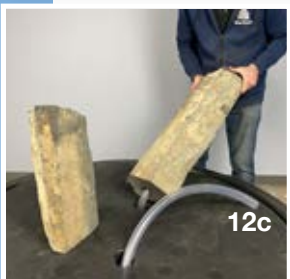
**12a** Position one of the column fountains near its designated hole in the basin, laying it down with the bottom close to the opening.

**12b** Feed the correct length of tubing through the bottom of the column, ensuring that the end extends 1-2 inches past the top. This extra length will make securing the tubing with the O-ring easier.



**12c** Carefully stand the column upright, ensuring the hose is not pinched underneath. Any excess tubing can be fed back into the basin.

**12d** Repeat process with the remaining column fountains.



**Note:** Shims are included to help stabilize your fountains if needed. This is especially useful when lighting is installed, as the fountains may sit unevenly on the light cords. Simply adjust with the shims to ensure a level and secure placement.

## Step 13

### Secure Tubing with O-Ring

**13a** Slide the o-ring over the tubing extending from the top.

**13b** Push excess tubing back into the basin so it sits just below the top of the fountain surface. The o-ring will hold the tubing in place.

**13c** The tubing should just extend to the inside of the fountain without being visible.



## Step 14

### Testing & Flow Adjustment

If you haven't already added water to the fountain basin, add water until the basin is filled to the bottom of the grates. Plug in the pump cord to test your fountain.

Set the water flow and plume height by adjusting the valves with the provided red valve key attached to your pump assembly. Use the included plastic shims to level the fountains for even water flow over the columns. If the height of the plumes is still lacking, use the 3 pieces of 1" x 3/4" clear vinyl and insert them into the ends of the fountain hoses. This will increase the height of the water plumes.

Splash should be kept to a minimum to avoid excessive refilling. Our optional Auto Fill Kit, (ABDAUTO) is used to keep the water level topped off with minimal maintenance checks.



## Step 15

### Landscape Finish

Cover your basin with Polished Pebbles and surround with your favorite foliage. Avoid placing soil or bark on the grate because it may fall through the screen into the basin and affect water flow.

## Enjoy!

We'd love for you to share your new fountain with us and future customers on our social media platforms!

### We Recommend Lighting Up Your Fountain Display!

#### External Up-lighting Add-on

Our IllumiGlow® Fountain 3 Light Kit will bring your bubbling display center stage by illuminating the water flowing down the stone in a warm white light, for a dramatic but soothing evening show.

**Easy to install!**

**See light kit instructions.**



Kit Item: #PB2897





# 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.
- 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 columns, brush off and use Crystal Clear® Algae D-Solv® #PB2002 to quickly clear organic debris and remove odors. 1 ounce treats 360 gallons.
- It is OK to run pump continuously 24/7, or you may choose to connect it to a timer.

## Winterizing:

- If you live in a climate that experiences prolonged freezing conditions, we recommend removing the pump from the basin. Place the pump in a bucket of water and store it in a place that will not freeze.
- 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.
- Our Rock Columns are manufactured to withstand freezing conditions and can be left outside during the winter months. There is no need to cover the Rock Columns, but you may do so if you desire.

## 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.

If you need replacement parts please contact us directly at **888-619-3474** or email us at **[sales@bluethumbponds.com](mailto:sales@bluethumbponds.com)**.



Auto Fill Kit  
#ABDAUTO



Muck Buster®  
#PB2682



Algae D-Solv®  
#PB2002

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