



# **Rustic Sugar Kettle Fountain Kits Installation Manual**



For use with  
28", 33", and 37"  
Sugar Kettle Bowl Fountains

Thank you for choosing the Blue Thumb Sugar Kettle Fountain Kit! This kit comes complete with everything you need for an easy installation. Please read carefully and when directed please reference specific product manuals for detailed product installation guidance. You'll have your fountain up and running in no time!

## Included in your Sugar Kettle Fountain Kit:

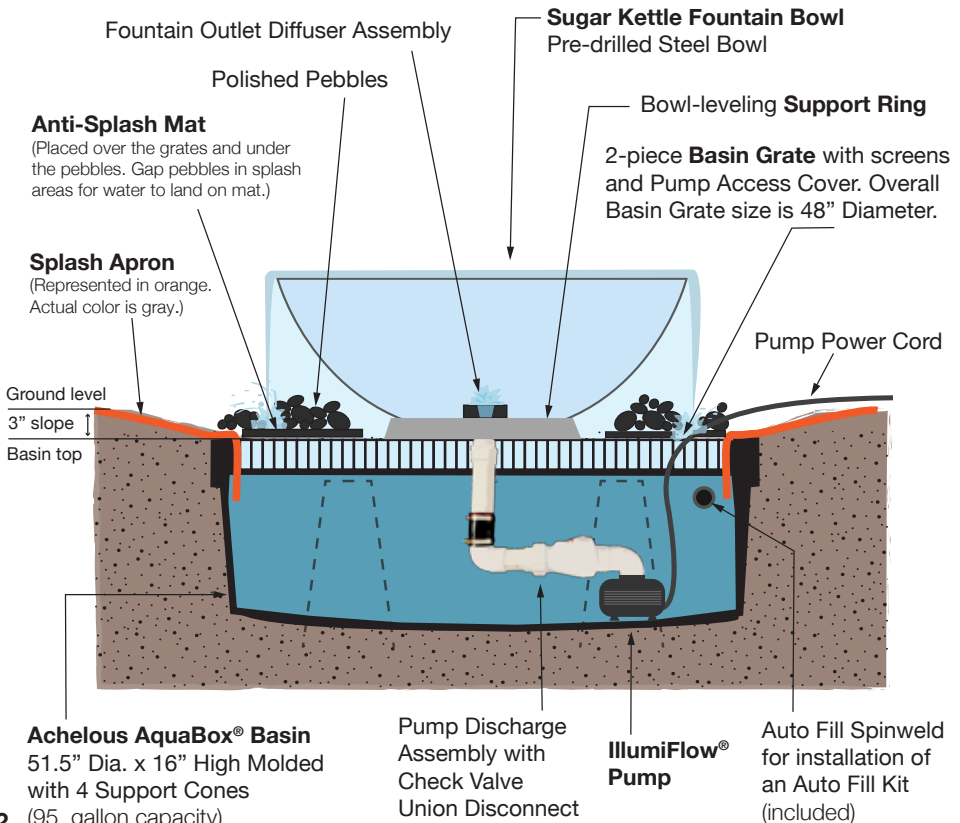
- Sugar Kettle, with attached bulkhead and water diffuser
- Bowl-leveling Support Ring 16.75" dia. x 3"H
- 48" Achelous Basin, with 2-piece grate with 2 pump access covers
- Additional PVC Support Column
- IllumiFlow® Pump
- Pump discharge assembly
- PVC intake connector assembly with union
- Fernco coupler
- Plastic shims
- Anti-Splash basin cover and splash apron

### About Excavation and Installation of the Basin:

For this application, excavate a slope approximately 3" below ground level for the **Splash Apron** to direct water back into the Achelous Basin.

**Note: The Splash Apron with 40" diameter center cut out should be in place before setting the Fountain. It will not fit over top of the installed Sugar Kettle.**

### Side Cross-Section View



# ACHELOUS AQUABOX® BASIN INSTALLATION



## Achelous Specs:

51.5" diameter x 16"H Basin with 4 molded supports, 2-piece 48" dia. Grate with 2 Pump Access Covers notched for pump cord passthrough.

## Recommended Tools for Installation:

Shovel(s), Marking Paint, Level, Rake and/or Tamp, Measuring Tape, and Utility Knife

**Be certain to avoid underground utilities. If uncertain call your utility company or Miss Dig.**

## STEP 1

### Choose Basin Location

Consider your fountain location. Keep it near your preferred viewing area where both water and electricity services are accessible for the pump and fountain you will be adding. If your basin comes with a cardboard cover, you may leave it in place to keep dirt from falling in during installation.

Prepare to excavate by using marking paint to trace around your basin about 1"-2" wider than the top. Move basin aside.



## STEP 2

### Excavation of Basin Area

Using a shovel, dig 19" straight down into the ground, slightly wider than the fountain basin making sure to remove any sharp rocks or roots.

Make sure the basin is about 3" below grade. You will be installing a Splash Apron. The lowered basin allows you to slope the surrounding terrain toward the basin to direct splashed water back into the basin. This helps reduce water loss.



## STEP 3

### Level and Tamp Soil

**Important!** Level the bottom of the hole with a layer of sand or small gravel and tamp it down thoroughly. This prevents settling over time, especially in the center where the weight load is heaviest.





## Positioning The Basin Grate

Each grate is identical and both have pump access. They are designed to be mirrored, offering best flexibility for positioning. The pre-drilled hole in the center is where the sugar kettle plumbing will pass. One pump Access should be set nearest an electrical outlet. This is the location the pump will be placed.



### STEP 4

#### Set Basin in Place and Check Basin Level

**4a** Set basin in the hole and verify that the box top is level and approximately 3" below grade.

Position the basin within the hole making sure the pump access in the grate is orientated near electrical service.



**4b** Using a level, ensure the fountain basin remains level side to side. The basin should sit solidly on the leveled ground below. **NOTE:** Do not hang the lip of the basin on the ground surface. This can cause the basin to buckle over time.



### STEP 5

#### Backfill to Stabilize and Secure the Basin

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

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.

Now you may brush off and remove cardboard. Vacuum out any dirt that may have fallen into the basin.



### STEP 6

#### Slope and Smooth from Ground to Basin

Refer to the diagrams on page 2 for details on this process. Using a shovel, create a gentle slope starting approximately 18 inches from the edge of the basin. Slope the ground toward the basin lip to help direct any water runoff back into the basin, minimizing water loss. Clear any rocks and tamp to smooth.



## Cut & Install Splash Apron

The Splash Apron comes as a 76" x 76" liner which will need the center cut out. The sloped ground and splash apron will direct oversplash back into the basin. Note: Normal evaporation is about 1-2" weekly, however, water loss is dependent on many factors including region, humidity, rainfall, and wind, as well as splash.



You may want to consider our Auto Fill Kit (Item #ABDAUTO).



### Optional Auto Fill Kit Install

If a Blue Thumb Elite Auto Fill Kit is being incorporated, you may bury your water supply line and make any Auto Fill connections during basin install.



Kit Item: #ABDAUTO

## STEP 7

### Slope and Smooth from Ground to Basin

Refer to the diagrams on page 2 for details on this process. Using a shovel, create a gentle slope starting approximately 18 inches from the edge of the basin. Slope the ground toward the basin lip to help direct any water runoff back into the basin, minimizing water loss. Clear any rocks and tamp to smooth.



## STEP 8

### Measure and Cut the Splash Apron

**8a** Measure to find center on the 76" x 76" sheet of liner, then measure 20 inches in each direction from the center point.



**8b** Cut out a 40 in. dia. circle out of the splash apron center. This size will leave 4 inches all around to tuck under the basin grate. While the cut hole doesn't need to be perfectly round, it should fully cover the ground area surrounding the basin for maximum effectiveness.



## STEP 9

### Install the Splash Apron

Lay the splash apron over the open basin and carefully set grates over the liner. Adjust until positioning of the splash apron is secure and satisfactory.

## Plumbing Setup

For ease of installation, the plumbing assembly will be complete when shipped. However, you will want to separate the pump attachment from the bowl attachment, and easily reattach once the sugar bowl and pump in place. **NOTE:** To install the pump and plumbing you will need to slide the grate with the pump access hole over to the side, taking care not to disturb the tucked splash apron.



## STEP 10

### Pump Plumbing

**10a** Thread the valve discharge assembly onto the pump. Set the pump assembly on its side in the basin, with the pump output on top. Keep the pump positioned as close to the pump access opening as possible for best accessibility.

**10b** Move the half of the grate that covers the pump off to the side a bit. Test the positioning of the full plumbing assembly before attaching the intake assembly in the kettle bowl.



## STEP 11

### Fountain Setup

**11a** Screw the intake assembly into the bulkhead on the bottom of the sugar kettle.

**To move the kettle in place you may need 2-3 people, depending on the sugar kettle size.**

**11b** Set the Bowl-leveling Support Ring in place over the pump valve assembly. Center the ring best as you can. Half the ring will be over the open basin allowing for easy connection once in place.

**11c** Tip kettle bowl into position in the basin grate with the kettle plumbing closely in alignment with the pump plumbing.

**11d** Keep the power cord outside the basin, especially if the basin has been filled with water. The power cord will pass through the notch on the pump access cover.



## STEP 12

### Secure the Basin Grate

**9a** Gently tilt the bowl and ring, then move the second half of the grate in place under the bowl-leveling support ring. Set the ring and kettle bowl back into position.

**9b** Reach into the basin through the pump access over the pump to connect the kettle and pump plumbing together by hand tightening the union.



## STEP 13

### Install the Water Diffuser

A pre-installed black Water Diffuser is included in your kit. It helps make the water flow evenly over the kettle. If it needs to be removed for any reason, the diffuser threads easily by hand into and out of the bulkhead fitting located in the bottom of the sugar kettle.



## STEP 14

### Place the Splash Mat Over the Grates

You may easily cut your splash mat for your best fit. The splash mat limits water loss by allowing water to filter through it. You may need to move pebbles away from the splash areas to prevent them from deflecting water out of the protected splash apron area.



## STEP 15

### Leveling and Adjustments

Level the kettle to help direct water flow evenly over the bowl. Make sure the inside the kettle is tightly secured.

You may add plastic shims where needed to adjust leveling and flow.





## STEP 16

### Fill and Test

If you haven't already added water to the fountain basin, use a garden hose to add water until the basin is filled to the bottom of the grates. Also fill the kettle with water until it begins to spill over.

Plug in the pump cord to test your fountain. Your kettle bowl should evenly flow over in all directions.

## Finishing

Select decorative gravel that compliments your fountain, adjacent landscape and is sized appropriately to not fall through the cracks of the grates into the fountain basin. For the best look, consider adding plants and moisture loving ground covers around the footprint of the fountain basin, or adding a lighting kit.

## ENJOY!

Grab your favorite beverage, sit back, relax, and enjoy your new fountain!

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

## Kit Tips

- Plumber's tape or silicone (not included) can be used to provide a watertight connection.
- These bowls will naturally evolve in coloration. The finish requires no maintenance, but upon occasion you may want to clean it with detergent and a soft cloth, do not use an abrasive.



Now, snap a picture of your completed waterfall and post it to our Facebook page at [facebook.com/bluethumbinc!](https://facebook.com/bluethumbinc!)

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