



WATER FEATURE MAINTENANCE GUIDELINES

Pondless System:

Your pondless water feature is designed to provide the beauty and sound of moving water with minimal maintenance. Because the system recirculates water from a hidden underground basin, proper care will ensure efficient operation, clean water, and long-term performance.

Weekly / Routine Care

- **Check Water Levels**
 - Ensure the water level in the basin remains adequate
 - Add water as needed, especially during hot or windy weather
 - Low water levels can damage the pump if it runs dry
- **Remove Debris**
 - Clear leaves, twigs, and debris from the surface regularly
 - Prevent buildup around the intake area to maintain proper flow
- **Visual Inspection**
 - Confirm water is flowing evenly over the feature
 - Listen for unusual pump noises (which can indicate low water or blockage)

Monthly Maintenance

- **Clean Pump Vault / Intake Area**
 - Turn off the pump
 - Remove and rinse debris from around the pump vault
 - Ensure intake openings are not clogged
- **Inspect Pump & Tubing**
 - Check for proper flow and pressure
 - Look for kinks or blockages in tubing

Seasonal Care

- **Spring Start-Up**
 - Remove debris that accumulated over winter

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- Reinstall pump (recommend removal over winter)
- Fill basin and test system
- Clean stones if needed to remove buildup
- **Summer**
 - Monitor water levels closely (evaporation is highest)
 - Top off water frequently
 - Consider adding beneficial bacteria to help keep water clear
- **Fall**
 - Remove falling leaves regularly to prevent clogging
 - Install netting if your feature is near heavy tree cover
 - Prepare for shutdown before first hard freeze
- **Winter Shutdown**
 - Turn off and unplug the pump
 - Remove pump, clean it, and store indoors (see pump manufacturer for cleaning/storing instructions)
 - Drain water to below intake level if necessary
 - Cover the feature or basin area if desired

Water Quality Tips

- Use clean, fresh water when topping off
- Avoid using harsh chemicals
- Algae is normal—manage it with regular cleaning and beneficial treatments if needed
- The most effective approach is preventative care: Consistent bacteria treatments help stop problems before they start—reducing the need for heavier chemical treatments later

Water Maintenance

Beneficial Bacteria Treatment

- *Applied weekly or bi-weekly*
- *Breaks down organic debris (leaves, pollen, dust)*
- *Helps prevent algae growth naturally*
- *Keeps water balanced and clear*

Best for: All pondless water features

Algae Control Treatment (As Needed)

- *Targets and eliminates visible algae*
- *Helps restore clean, clear water*
- *Used only when conditions require*

Best for: Features exposed to full sun or experiencing algae buildup

Water Clarifier (Situational Use)

- *Clears cloudy or hazy water*
- *Improves overall water appearance quickly*

Best for: After storms, debris buildup, or seasonal startup

Cleaning the Feature

- Periodically rinse stones to remove dirt and build-up
 - ◆ Avoid pressure washing unless necessary (*If used, do so carefully to avoid disturbing gravel or structure*)

Troubleshooting Common Issues

- Low Water Flow
 - Check water level
 - Inspect pump for debris
 - Ensure tubing is not blocked
- Pump Not Running
 - Confirm power source
 - Check for tripped breaker or GFCI
 - Inspect pump for clogging
- Water Loss
 - Some evaporation is normal and expected
 - Excessive loss may indicate a leak or splash-out issue (*adjusting cobbles that cover basin may help splash*)

What to Avoid

- Letting the pump run dry
- Allowing debris to accumulate in the basin
- Using harsh chemicals or untreated water additives
- Ignoring seasonal shutdown in freezing temperatures

Long-Term Care

With proper maintenance, your pondless water feature will:

- Provide consistent, relaxing water flow
- Require minimal repairs
- Maintain a clean and natural appearance

An annual professional clean-out and inspection can extend the life of your pump and keep your feature performing like new.