



Sugar Kettle Fountain Kit Installation Manual



Blue Thumb

For use with
All Sugar Kettle 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 PVC water diffuser
- 16.75" dia. x 3"H Kettle Support Ring
- 48" AquaBox Achelous Basin, with pre-drilled 2-piece Grate
- Additional PVC Support Column
- IllumiFlow® Pump
- Pump Discharge Assembly
- PVC Intake Connector Assembly
- Fernco Coupler
- Plastic Shims
- Anti-Splash Basin Cover and Splash Apron



STEP 1

Choose Basin Location

Locate your fountain near your preferred viewing area where both water and electricity services are accessible.



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

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

STEP 2

Excavation of Basin Area

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.

Make sure the basin is about 1½" 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

Position & Backfill Basin

Place the basin within the hole. Make sure the pump opening in the grate is orientated near electrical service. Using a 2 - 4 ft. level ensure the fountain basin remains level side to side.

Once the fountain basin is level, carefully back fill using excavated soil. Tamping the soil tightly around the basin to prevent shifting. It is best to keep the cardboard covering the basin during backfill to keep as much dirt out of the basin as possible.



STEP 4

Lay the Splash Apron Over Basin


Our 8'x 8' square splash apron has a precut 32" dia. circle cut in the center. You can custom cut and tailor the apron to fit around your fountain and trim any additional that is not needed. The splash apron should lay over the basin and under the grate.

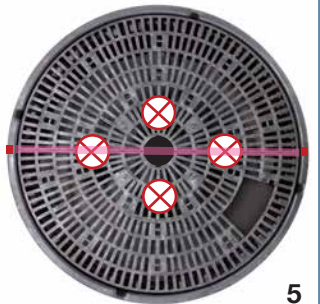


STEP 5

Grate Position on the Basin

Notice that the two halves of the installed grate should meet over the wider set of molded support columns. This provides greatest strength. Additional PVC support columns may be included for added stability. These will be best placed as close to the center as possible once the plumbing has been placed. The pre-drilled hole in the center is where the drilled kettle plumbing will pass. The pump access should be nearest an electrical outlet.

 Location of molded column supports under the grates



STEP 6

Sugar Kettle Plumbing

Attach the intake connector assembly to the bulkhead in the center of the bottom of the Sugar Kettle.



STEP 7

Pump Plumbing

7a Thread the pre-assembled valve discharge assembly onto the pump.

7b Set the pump assembly on its side in the basin with the Fernco connector under the pre-drilled center opening in the basin grates. Unlike many other pumps, our IllumiFlow® pump can be installed on its side, it will run in either position.

The pump assembly should be located beneath the pump access panel and inside the fountain basin. Keep the pump positioned as close to the pump access opening as possible for best accessibility.

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



STEP 8

Fountain Set up

8a Move the half of the grate that covers the pump off to the side a bit. Set Fountain Support Ring in place over the pump valve assembly. Center the ring best as you can. Half the ring will be over the basin allowing for easy connection.

8b You'll need 2-3 people, depending on the sugar kettle size, to move the kettle in place. Lift and set the kettle over the ring with the intake assembly setting in the center cut hole.

8c Connect with the Fernco and securely tighten.



STEP 9

Replace the Grate and Level Fountains

If you have Place PVC support columns, place them as close to the center as possible before adding the second grate.

9a The power cord should be passed through the pump access before adding water.

9b Slide the grate in place under the fountain support ring.

9c Level the kettle to help direct water flow evenly over the bowl. Make sure the inside of the kettle is tightly secured.

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



STEP 10

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. Set the water flow by adjusting the red pump valve.

When satisfied with the flow, place the pump cover and lay the round anti-splash mat over the basin. This mat, as well as the splash apron, "catches" water and drops it in the basin, which minimizes refill. Water will still evaporate, however, having an Auto Fill in place reduces maintenance even further.



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 at this time.



Kit Item: #ABDAUTO

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.

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.

Optional Lighting

External Up-lighting Add-on

Our IllumiGlow® Fountain 3 Light Kit will bring your display center stage by illuminating the water flowing from the spillway in a warm white light, for a dramatic but soothing evening show, similar to the Formal Falls® at left.



Kit Item: #PB2897



General Fountain and System Maintenance



Auto Fill Kit
#ABDAUTO

It is OK to run pump continuously 24/7, or you may choose to connect it to a timer and add a Lighting Kit #PB2897.

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 CrystalClear® Algae D-Solv® #PB2002 to quickly clear organic debris and remove odors. 1 ounce treats 360 gallons.



Muck Buster®
#PB2682

Winterizing:

To prevent the risk of damage:

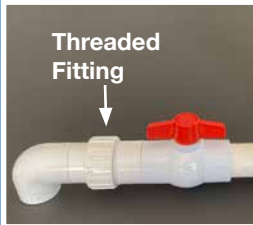
FOR AREAS THAT DIP BELOW FREEZING disconnect the pump from the fountain during these spells.

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 the pump from the basin for the winter. Disconnect the pump assembly by unscrewing the **threaded fitting**.

Place the pump in a bucket of water and store it in a place that will not freeze.

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.

There is no need to cover the kettle.



Threaded
Fitting

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.
- Visually inspect your pump for damage before reconnecting. Place pump in your basin and reconnect the plumbing. Refill both the basin and kettle. Plug in and adjust flow.
- Add Muck Buster® to the running fountain to replenish good bacteria to further break down any remaining waste.



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!

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