

Galaxy Fountains

Congratulations on your new Galaxy Fountain! Each one is made entirely by hand, and is a unique work of art. There will be variations in each one of them. That is part of their charm. With a minimum of care, it should provide you with years and years of enjoyment. Please read this packet before you install the piece.

Tools you Will Need:

Pencil, Level, Screwdriver, Hammer, Pliers

Hanging the reservoir (copper basin)

Smaller fountains hang from a total of four anchored screws, (two in the reservoir, two at the top of the artwork). When you install them, hold the basin in the approximate position where you will want the basin to hang, and mark where the holes will be drilled. Use a level to make sure that the basin is hanging straight. If you have a larger basin, additional instructions will come after this section.

Next, make a small hole in the drywall at each spot that you marked with the drill or a screwdriver. The hole should be just small enough that the blue plastic anchors fit tightly. If you have to tap them in a little, you are doing it just right.

Next line up the basin with the holes and tighten the screws.

For *larger basins*, we include 6" by 6" brackets to give additional strength to the piece. These will screw in behind the basin, so that the bottom of the basin sits on the bracket. As a rule of thumb, for a 4' basin, hang each bracket 12" in from the sides. On a 5 or 6' basin, start each bracket 18" in from each side.

Mounting the Artwork

If you examine the back of the fountain (the piece with the art on it), then you will see either a folded ridge or a length of wood at the top with a gap underneath it. This is what the brackets that are included are going to hang from.

Get a second pair of hands to help you with this step. Gently lower the artwork in to the basin. The art work fits an inch or two inside the basin. Do not rest or hang the artwork so that it touches the bottom of the basin. With one person stabilizing the piece, have the other person make a light pencil mark at the top of the fountain to determine where the hooks will hang.

With the line marked, set the fountain aside for the moment. Again, taking a level, make sure that the line is level. Then mark a spot 1 inch lower than the top line. Depending on the size of the fountain, we will send you a different number of brackets. For a standard fountain, two brackets is standard. As you did with the basin, make a small hole in the wall, and tap in the plastic anchor. With a standard basin, each hook should be placed roughly 3 to 4" in from each side. On larger fountains, you want to make sure that the hooks are spaced out equally across the surface.

Now line up the brackets with each hole, and screw in the brackets to the wall.

Once you are sure that the brackets are secure, grab that second pair of hands and together lift the artwork up against the wall and gently slide it down until it rests on the brackets. At this point, double check that both the art work and the basin are hanging securely.

Plumbing and Electrics

The hard part is done now. You will see a tube hanging down from the art work with a black elbow attached to it. This screws onto the pump.

Also, if you ordered lights, you will see the cord hanging down from the artwork as well. The length of cord on the lights is very short. This is done by design so that the cord won't reach the water.

With the electrics, make sure that they plug in to a GFI (ground-fault interrupter). You can buy one of these at any hardware store for around \$10. This is a safety precaution. Many of our clients even have electricians install recessed outlets behind the fountain. If you plan on doing this, a good rule of thumb is to have it at least 18" up from the bottom of the fountain, and at the center-point of the artwork. Note that this isn't mandatory, but it does hide all of the cords quite well. It is best if the outlet can be controlled from a switch somewhere else in the room.

With all of the plugs plugged in, and the outlet off, get a bucket and *slowly* fill the basin with water. Fill the basin about half full. It isn't necessary or desirable to fill it all the way to the top.

As a side-note, each pump has either a grill or a tube where the water is pulled in. This has to be under water. If after a time, you hear a sucking sound from the pump, that means that the water is evaporating, and you need to add some more water.

While your fountain is low maintenance, adding water is something that you will have to do from time to time.

Turning it On

When you turn on the fountain, the water may not flow at first. This is not uncommon. You may have to prime the pump which means that you have to turn the switch on and off four or five times in quick succession to blow out any air in the line.

Once the water is flowing, inspect it carefully. Behind the artwork is a white restrictor clamp on the vinyl tube. This controls the rate of flow for the water. In the wide open position, you will get a fast, loud flow, but the trade off is the possibility of an occasional splash. Clicked down, you will get a slower, quieter flow. Most adjustments will be made with only with this adjustment.

Checking the flow

We pretest each fountain before it leaves our studio, but occasionally during shipping things can jostle and need readjustment. If you see dripping from the top of the fountain, this is quite easily fixed. Remove the copper visor and you will see a white tube where the water comes from. If the water is dribbling over the top of the white tube, gently grasp the tubing with pliers and twist the tube downward until the dribbling stops. Once you have the flow the way you want it, replace the visor.

Trouble Shooting

Some of you might have hard water. Over time you might get white deposits on the fountain. Turn it off and spray CLR on the fountain and gently wipe off with a soft pre-moistened towel.

Splashing: If your fountain is splashing, you may have to readjust the volume of water with the white restrictor clamp. Also the amount of water in the reservoir plays a factor. Less water in the reservoir gives greater sound...because the water falls farther before it hits the surface of the water in the reservoir. But with greater sound there is also a chance of an occasional splash. That is the nature of all fountains...more sound, more splash.

Maintaining the copper parts: Each of these fountains is made by hand, not by machine and each one is meant to have an *old world* look. We deliberately buff, distress, and dip each piece in patina chemicals to give it this charm. The best thing you can do for the copper is give it an occasional wipe-down with Pledge or some furniture polish. Do not get the polish on the artwork however. Oil and water don't mix well.