

## FOUNTAIN CARE

- Routine maintenance of your fountain is essential for optimal fountain enjoyment. Always check the water level before starting the pump. Never let the fountain run dry, lack of water will burn out the pump. We recommend the use of reverse osmosis or distilled water in the fountain to protect the finish and prolong the pump life. Fill the fountain to the proper level to replace water as it evaporates. Depending on your climate, you will need to check water level every 1 –3 days. Do not use water from a water softener that uses salt to soften the water.
- It is not recommended that fountains be left running during the night, or when you're not at home, as the water level cannot be monitored.
- Fountain pumps are not designed to run 24 hours a day non-stop. Operating time should consist of 8-10 hours a day with the correct water supply specified for your fountain.
- Drain and clean the fountain using a soft cloth or sponge, and change the water frequently. Depending on the temperature, and resulting evaporation, you may see a buildup of white residue on the fountain surface from the mineral content in your water supply. Fountains without a painted surface may also experience effervescence, as well as mineral deposits due to the natural occurrence of alkali content in the water and concrete. **Do not** use any abrasive or harsh chemicals that can damage the finish.
- Routine monthly maintenance will add to your pump's life. To clean the impeller and screen on the pump, use a small brush and strong stream of water. Also flushing water backwards through the pump while the pump is off, helps to remove any debris from the screen as well.
- Watch for leaves and other materials that might fall in and clog your pump's screen. Also pets, birds, or kids may place objects in your fountain. Algae will damage the fountain's surface and can clog the pump, causing it to overheat and burn out. Some fountains contain piping that can collect debris, and the piping may need to be flushed out with a strong stream of water periodically.
- Pumps may be cleaned using 2 cups of white vinegar to a gallon of water. Soak the pump in a bucket containing the vinegar water solution for a few minutes, then, with the pump in the solution, plug it in and let it run for 30 minutes. The vinegar will loosen the lime or calcium deposits in the pump. When cleaning, the pump, you should also remove any debris (leaves, twigs, etc.) from the screen.
- An algacide should be used routinely to prevent algae from developing in your fountain. **Chlorine based products should never be used to control algae in your fountain because they will damage the metal parts in your pump, and void the pump warranty.** Additives are also available that help reduce the buildup of mineral and calcium deposits. These products are available at most local pool and spa stores, and at Phoenix Precast Product's location.