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Installation and Maintenance

Aqualens and Aquasphere

Aqualens and Aquasphere are individually-produced garden artwork fountains, which we hope you enjoy. Care should be taken with its use, as it involves electrics, water, hard-edged surfaces and components.

Guidance in installation

Place the dish on your chosen firm and level surface. Place the platform in the dish. Adjust the platform so that it sits flat and level, with pump hoses connected, using a spirit level. The pump electrical lead should come through a gland provided in the dish. This is to be connected to an appropriate nearby power point. If a light is fitted, the lead should come through the second gland in the dish for connection to a nearby power point. Place the sphere with its rim in the groove cut into the platform. Fill the dish with water, and once the water is above the top of the pump unit, turn on the pump power. This will allow the water to be pumped into the sphere. Continue filling the dish until Aqualens is working with the sphere full and water flowing down the outside. Top up the water in the dish to the desired level (we recommend a water level just above the platform).

Any bubbles in the sphere will gradually disappear in use, but can be removed more quickly using "rinse-aid" liquid as used in dishwashers. A squirt of Rinse Aid every so often will keep bubbles at bay! The platform must be exactly horizontal for best effect. Final adjustment if required can be carried out by two strong and careful people, and the use of a spirit level. When the pump stops (power cut or for cleaning), the sphere will empty and water will overflow the dish pool. Aqualens should be sited so that water overflow will not cause damage. When re-starting pump, the water will need to be topped up as described above.

Guidance for maintenance

We recommend continuous running with gentle chlorination to keep the water clear. You must use slow-release chlorine tablets, the hard type such as Fi-Clor, not the soft granular type often used for swimming pools because this generates excessive chlorine which can damage the pump and other parts. It is best to put the chlorine tablets in a plastic tub if possible. In very hard water areas, you must use water softener to avoid scale build-up in the pump. Use liquid water softener. To change the water and clean out leaves and other debris, which may have collected within Aqualens, turn off the pump, let the water drain down from the sphere and overflow the dish. To

avoid water overflowing the surrounding area water can be drained by siphoning. The water can then be completely emptied by tipping up the dish. Clean the dish, platform and sphere with water. Stainless steel polish will remove any discolouration of the steel. If the sphere needs additional cleaning use a suitable creamy cleanser to avoid scratching.

Take Care

We know from experience that Aqualens works well in our garden, and in a variety of conditions in several countries. The pump will suffer if the water level falls below the top of its inlet, or the pump inlet becomes blocked. You may see bubbles in the sphere which is a warning to top up the water, or to clean the pump filter. Water may evaporate during hot conditions, and the sphere and reflective surfaces may cause glare and focus heat in bright sunlight. If the water gets near to boiling then turn off the pump, empty and take appropriate precautions. Aqualens usually works well in freezing conditions with the pump running since the water movement inhibits freezing. Ice sometimes forms on the outside of the sphere (rather nice ice sculptures) but take care if the ice causes the water level to fall below the pump inlet. Watch for bubbles or pump noise, in which case turn off and empty out, or top up the water. If the weather is really cold turn off and drain down. The sphere should be brought in out of the wind when empty to avoid being blown over.

The sphere when full is heavy, so it is unlikely to be dislodged should a child or pet collide with it. When empty, the sphere is light, and can blow about in wind. The water can overflow, for example in a power cut, so it needs to be positioned sensibly. The sphere will focus light, so when the sun is low and strong be aware of possible focussed heat.

Pump and Light

The pump (and light if provided) may suffer wear and tear and need replacing from time to time. Replacement pumps and lights are available from garden and electrical suppliers, and can be fitted by a competent person, contact us if you have difficulty, or require further information.