

The Lowdown on Fountains

By Matt of The Greenery

Style: Fountains come in all different shapes and sizes. There are numerous types of fountain styles including: wall-fountains, table top, multi-tiered, vase shaped, and self contained fountains. There are also different mediums of material used to compose a fountain- most popular is concrete, but The Greenery also carries colored glazed ceramic, and light weight fiber glass. So, with all of the different styles in mind, you can help narrow down your choice for selecting a fountain by assessing the area in which you are going to be placing it (what type of shape would best suit the area, and what kind of noise/volume would you like).

Placement: As I already mentioned, there are several different styles, colors, and themes to a fountain- but what you need to take in to consideration if you are thinking of purchasing a fountain is “how big of a fountain is necessary?” The last thing you want to do is take a 500lb fountain home, set it up, and realize that it is not the right size. Bring in measurements of the area you would like to place it, sketches or pictures for what you are envisioning, and any one of us can help you select the perfect style and size!

Sound: Most of our customers who come in to the nursery are looking for a fountain that creates some sort of noise. The fountains I recommend for that particular need is either a multi-tiered fountain or a vase fountain. The reason those two styles work best for the highest level of noise is because the basin where the water is ejected from has a greater distance to the main body of water. In my opinion the best way to decide if you want a fountain that creates noise is to see (or hear it!) in action! This way you not only get to asses if the volume is right for you, but you also get to see how much it splashes. All fountains splash, but some more than others.

Maintenance: Here in the nursery I use a product that we carry called Algaefix. It is basically an enzyme that prohibits most almost all algae from growing. The thing to remember is, that Algaefix is a preventative- the fountain has to be algae free for this product to be most effective. If the fountain already has a population of algae it is best to either A.) Drain the fountain and scrub it clean or B.) add a bleaching agent such as chlorine to the fountain (but remember that chlorine is not a good product to rely on, extended use over time will corrode and damage your pump). I prefer to use Algaefix because it helps extend the life of the pump, and it is also wildlife friendly! Another factor in algae growth is how much sun your fountain is receiving. The more sun a fountain is in the faster the algae will grow. If you have the perfect spot for a fountain that is in the full hot blazing sun, just increase the intervals of the preventative treatment.

Set up: Most fountains require at least 2 people to set up and have their own unique assembly. If you are interested in a fountain, but not the labor involved in setting it up- we can deliver, and set up! Just ask for a free quote!

Enjoy: Using a fountain in a landscape can help dress up an area and add a totally different element. I have customers who use them as a sound barrier, the main focal point of their landscape, and some who just like to watch the birds take baths. I hope all of the information has helped you decide what kind of fountain to choose. As always if you have any questions pertaining to fountains do not hesitate to ask any of us! Happy Fountain Shopping!