

# WILSHIRE GARDEN MARKET

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2821 Wilshire Blvd., Oklahoma City, OK 73116  
(405) 879-1121 [www.wilshiregardenmarket.com](http://www.wilshiregardenmarket.com)  
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## SUMMER IS AN IDEAL TIME FOR FOUNTAINS

Water features comprise a large portion of the outdoor living trend. The sight and sound of flowing water are very desirable and enjoyable, especially so



in the warm summer months. The sound of moving water is inviting, relaxing, masks unwanted noise, and adds visual interest to the natural environment. After experiencing the inclusion of a water feature in a garden, its absence is noticeable.

Before installing a fountain, there are a number of questions that need to be answered. How large should the fountain be? Will it be placed against a wall or where it

will be seen from all sides? How much space is available? Where is the closest power source? Is there easy access to the fountain and the power source? What features such as dramatic evening lighting, an attractive walk way, or plant materials might be placed



near the fountain? What style is the home? Is the home constructed of brick, stucco, or stone; what are the predominant colors? Is there an architectural element that could be highlighted with a fountain?



The answers to these questions will be different for each potential location. Some gardens will easily accommodate a large fountain, while others will better accommodate a wall fountain or a small free standing fountain. It is wise to measure the area and even make a rough pencil sketch

showing the potential placement and size of the proposed fountain. Using pegs and string, stake out the fountain's dimensions, leaving it there for a day or two before making the decision to proceed. Generally, think large rather than small; the outdoors is a large space and garden accents that are small can appear even more so when placed in their setting.

Consider the style of home and garden when selecting a fountain. Simple, clean lines blend into many gardens, whereas ornate cherubs, lions, and dolphins need a very formal environment.



Fountains can be made from many materials; the most common materials used to make outdoor fountains are cast stone, limestone, or metal. Cast stone fountains are available in finishes that closely resemble bronze, limestone, lead, and other natural materials.

Adding a fountain to the garden is a simple, cost effective way to bring tranquility to the mind and beauty to the garden.

## FOUNTAIN PUMP MAINTENANCE 101

Gardens seem more beautiful and summer heat cooler with the gently splashing sound of water coming from a fountain. If the gently splashing water slows to a sluggish trickle, makes a grinding noise, or stops altogether, anxiety sets in. What to do?

Water pumps are relatively simple mechanisms that have very few parts. With proper care, the average pump should last for several years. If a pump is working at all, if it makes any noise or vibrates, it is not broken; it could be clogged with mineral deposits, sediment, pieces of mosquito dunks, leaves, or algae that can collect in the filter intake area. Before declaring a pump dead, check cords and the reset button on the electrical outlet.

The following tips and accompanying images will demystify fountain pumps, allowing the owner to feel more confident that water soon will be splashing freely once again.

If possible, remove the pump from the fountain, or at least unplug the pump and bring it above the water. Then, remove the cover from the end of the pump case.



Once the cover has been removed, pull out the sponge-like filter and rinse it clean. With the cap removed, the impeller (the fan-like component) is accessible. The impeller is magnetized, so expect to feel slight resistance.

Remove the impeller from the pump by hand. If the pump has been performing poorly, it is likely that sediment and mineral deposits will be encrusted around the magnetic cylinder.



Gently rinse the impeller with water and check for rough feeling mineral deposits. If mineral deposits are excessive, soak the impeller for 20 minutes in a 50/50 solution of purified water and C.L.R., available at most grocery and hardware stores. Gentle brushing of the pump with an old toothbrush is also an option in the cleaning process. With a garden hose or faucet, rinse the inside of the pump to make sure that no particles remain.

Replace the impeller and any other components just as they were removed from the pump. Before assuming that it will work, either submerge the pump in a bucket of water or in the fountain under enough water to cause the pump to work correctly.

If it sounds like the pump is running, but little if any water is flowing, tap the pump gently but firmly against the side of the bucket or fountain to kick start the impeller in case it is stuck or to dislodge any small piece of debris that might still be lurking inside.

If the pump still does not work, it may actually be burned out, and a new one should be purchased.

Pumps must always be completely covered with water in order to work properly. If a pump is allowed to run dry, it will overheat and burn out. Water must be clean and free of debris. A small fish net is an excellent tool for removing even minute pieces of debris and sediment that can clog pumps.

The water level and quality should be checked daily in hot weather. Small or shallow fountains that are frequented by many birds should be turned on primarily when someone is there to enjoy them.

Just before the weather turns cold, drain the water from the fountain. Remove the decorative finial, if applicable, and use the pump itself to remove most of the water. Use a leaf blower to blow out the remaining water. Remove the pump or elevate it to keep it out of potential ice. Try to keep the fountain empty and dry during the winter. Place a few trimmed evergreen boughs in the basin to deflect the stress of any frozen moisture.

For now, relax and enjoy the cool, soothing sounds of gently splashing water!

## NEW AT WILSHIRE GARDEN MARKET -- SUMMER 2006

Wilshire Garden Market is pleased to offer a line of Kaffe Fassett dinnerware and table linens that is well designed with beautiful color ways. For anyone not familiar with this name, Kaffe Fassett is a textile artist.



Born in San Francisco in 1937, he moved to London in 1964 to paint, where he has chosen to remain.



Throughout his career, he has written numerous beautiful books and given lectures on his refreshing and somewhat surprising sense of color. He even designed a Gold Medal winning garden at the Chelsea Flower Show, which was called "The trend setting garden of the show".

His one-of-a-kind designs have been collected by Barbara Streisand, Lauren Bacall, John Schlesinger, Ali McGraw, Shirley MacLaine and H.R.H. Princess Michael of Kent. Recently he has designed a range of fabric prints and hand painted ceramic dinnerware. His expertise in textile arts can be seen in the dinnerware and table linens through the playful use of repetitive lines together with floral prints. Fassett is the guru of color and textiles.



We are also excited to have found a source for Provence lavender grown in Oklahoma. The lovely fragrance from the plump bundles of fresh lavender is permeating the entire store. They are a decorative item for the kitchen or bath, and make a unique hostess gift.



More garden hats are here in pinks, straw, stripes, purples, coral, and orange, most with comfortable leather bolo straps to secure them in the Oklahoma breezes. Keep the sun's harmful rays off of your skin, stay cooler, and look cool at the same time!

## SEMINAR SERIES 2006

These seminars begin at 10:30 a.m. and are one hour in length, with time for questions at the conclusion. The fee is \$10 per person; seating is somewhat limited, so call now to reserve a space. Door prizes are given at each seminar. Please join us!

Sat., July 8	Linda Vater	"Shade Gardening"
August	Susan Mayberry	To be announced
Sat., Sept. 16	Linda Vater	"Best Foundation Plants"
Fri., Oct. 13	Linda Vater	"Bulb Container Gardening"

You can get interesting garden information by watching Linda Vater's garden segments on the KFOR-TV4 4:45 News with Linda Cavanaugh every Friday.

## EXTERIOR DECORATING

Give yourself (or someone else) a garden retreat, or update an existing one. Wilshire Garden Market provides an exterior decorating consultation service. By appointment, for a nominal fee, we will make a consultation visit followed by written suggestions to make your garden retreat more charming, cohesive, and useful. Call the store for details or to set up an appointment.



Let us help you create your outdoor living room!

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WILSHIRE  GARDEN  
M A R K E T



**ENTERTAIN OUTDOORS!**

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