DIY Pondless Fountain Setup

Your parts list and step-by-step build sequence for a hidden water feature.

Gather the exact materials and assemble a stable, splash-proof pondless fountain. Uncover the hidden setup behind this bubbling feature to start your weekend project today.



Key Measurements

15 gal
Buried basin minimum volume

8-12 in
Splash radius overlap past urn width

10-15 ft
Max distance to GFCI outlet

2 ft
Pump cord slack for drip loop

400 GPH
Standard pump flow rating

Prep the river rocks

Rinse all decorative rocks thoroughly with a high-pressure hose before placing them to wash away heavy dust and mud that would clog your brand-new pump.

Complete Parts List

- [ ] Plastic basin (see minimum volume)
- [ ] Concrete cinder blocks
- [ ] Submersible pump (see flow rating)
- [ ] Flexible vinyl tubing
- [ ] Inline adjustable flow valve
- [ ] Four bags of smooth river rocks

Site & Safety Checks

- ○ Ensure deeply compact soil rather than freshly tilled garden beds.
- ○ Check pump packaging for exact electrical and GFCI rating requirements.
- ○ Confirm the spot is clear of messy deciduous trees overhead.
- ○ Mark the exact footprint of your basin with marking paint.

Adjustable Flow Valve Settings

Find your row: **Desired water effect**

Desired water effect	Your pick	Why
Gentle trickle down sides	25% open	Zero splash, lowest evaporation
Soft bubbling at rim	50% open	Minimal drops, ideal daily setting
Active cascading flow	75% open	Moderate splash, requires weekly refills

Step-by-Step Build Sequence

1. **Seat the basin** Dig a perfectly level hole and seat the basin flush with the surrounding soil.
2. **Add cinder block support** Place the concrete cinder blocks inside the basin and cut a matching access hole in the lid.
3. **Level the urn** Set the ceramic urn directly on the blocks, check for perfect level, and route internal tubing.
4. **Connect and test** Fill the reservoir, plug in the pump using a safe drip loop, and dial the flow valve.
5. **Finish with stones** Conceal the exposed plastic grate and structural blocks entirely with your freshly rinsed river rocks.

Project Notes

Enjoy the tranquil sounds of your beautiful, custom-built pondless backyard fountain!