



# Instructions for the All Season Bird Bath With Dripper

## Selecting a Location:

It is desirable to locate the bath within 50 ft. of an outdoor faucet so that the tubing will reach. If needed, extra tubing and connectors are available from most local hardware stores, garden centers and automotive parts stores (ask for 1/4 inch tubing, which is sometimes labeled 3/16 inch because this is the inside diameter). These parts can also be ordered direct from Winged Aquatics. A good location should also meet as many of the following criteria as possible:

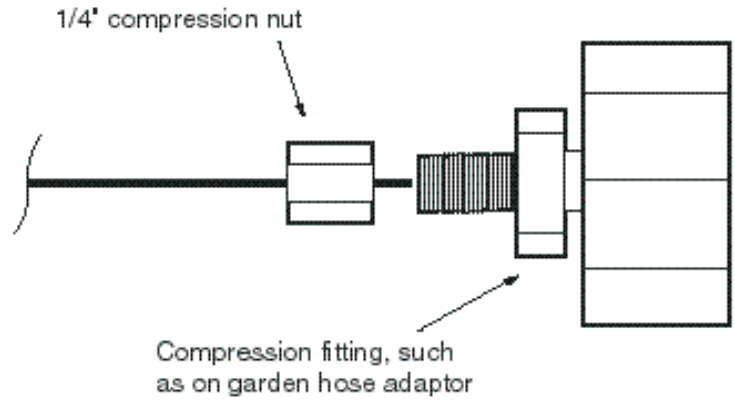
- Area already frequented by birds. Often this is near a bird feeder, but do not position the bird bath too close to the feeder as seeds and hulls will fall into the bath.
- Easily viewed from a location where you frequently sit to watch birds. A good distance away from your house or porch is about 20 - 40 ft.
- To the east or north of your observation point. This will put the sun at your back for afternoon viewing.
- Near trees and shrubs for cover and under a small tree.
- Relatively level area (this makes installation easier).
- Avoid dense ground cover which can hide a cat.

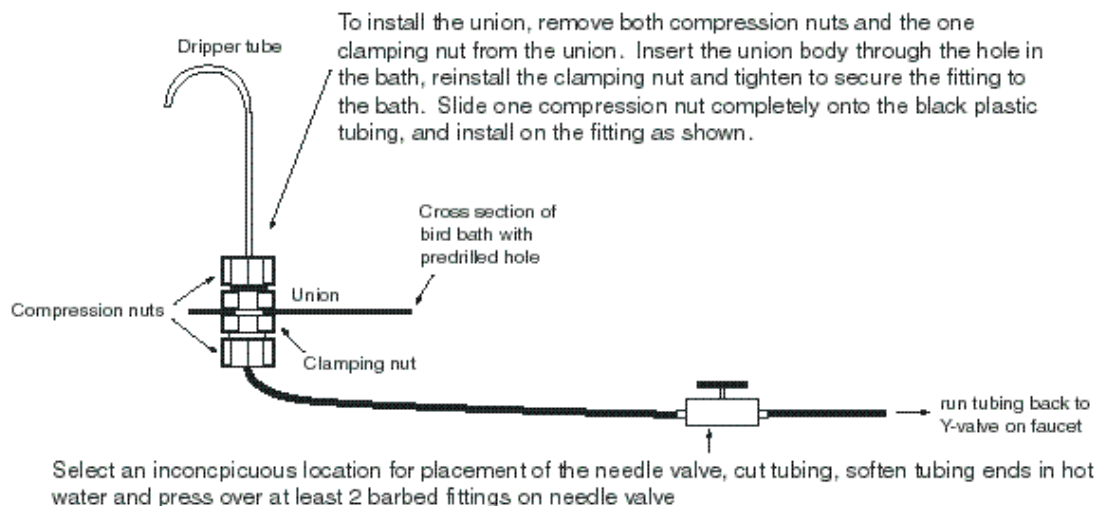
## Installation:

Follow the Figure below to install the fittings on the bath. Wait to install the dripper tube until after setting the bath so as to minimize the chance of bending the dripper tube.

The bath itself is designed to sit on top of the ground. If the area you selected is exposed to high winds, you may wish to build soil up about an inch around the outside edge of the bath to insure that wind cannot get under the bath. If the location you have selected is not level, you will need to remove dirt from the higher side and fill-in the lower side. When the location is approximately level, set the bath in place and fill with water. Do additional leveling if required. Note that one portion of the bath has a notch slightly deeper than any other portion. This is where excess water should overflow.

Once you are satisfied with the placement and leveling of the bath, connect the tubing to the faucet. You can hide the tubing by opening a slit in the ground with a shovel, and inserting the tubing into the slit, and then pressing the slit closed over the tubing.





## Routine Operation:

With the dripper tube installed, adjust the needle valve to get the desired drip rate. It is preferable to operate the dripper on a daily basis because this provides the birds with a dependable supply of cool fresh water and also keeps the bird bath full. We find a battery operated water timer very helpful in establishing a regular on-off schedule which the birds become accustomed to, and which conserves water. Water timers can be purchased from most local garden centers, hardware stores or discount stores. With a timer, we often observe the birds gathering around the bath about 15 minutes before the timer is scheduled to come on. Mid to late afternoon seems to be a favorite bathing time.

## Maintenance:

We recommend that you empty, rinse and refill the bath at least weekly or more often when it is used frequently. You can use a garden hose to flush out the dirty water without having to lift the bath. If at any time you experience low flow from the dripper which cannot be corrected by opening the needle valve, then check the strainer in the adapter on the Y valve.

Algae growth can be minimized by locating the bath in at least some shade. If algae grows on the bath it can usually be removed with a jet of water from a garden hose. Stubborn algae can also be removed with diluted bleach. Add 1/4 cup of household bleach to a full bath, stir with a stick, let sit 5 minutes and then pour out on the ground away from any plants. Rinse thoroughly and refill the bath. When using bleach, be sure to follow all precautions on the bleach container.

## Winter:

Be sure to disconnect the Y-valve from the faucet before freezing weather!

Most outdoor faucets are designed to drain when nothing is connected to them to prevent freeze damage. We also recommend you bring the dripper tube and the needle valve inside. The tubing can be left in-place even with water in it. When reactivating the system, run fresh water through the tubing before reconnecting the needle valve, etc.

The *All Season Bird Bath* can be used with any bird bath de-icer with a low enough profile to be completely submerged. If you have a lot of freezing weather and do not plan to use a de-icer, we recommend that you bring the bath inside until spring, for repeated freeze-thaw cycles can eventually initiate cracks.

# HAPPY BACKYARD BIRDING!