



Instructions for the Feather-Mister™

The Feather Mister™ spray system mimics a gentle rain shower and is most effective when set-up to wet foliage just above a bird bath. This is because many birds, particularly small birds such as finches and warblers, like to take "leaf baths". Leaf bathing is when the birds rub up against the wet foliage to bathe. Hummingbirds are attracted to the mist itself and like to fly back and forth through it.

SELECTING A LOCATION:

The best location is one that is as natural as possible. Also, try to select a location so that the water from the foliage of a small tree or shrub drips into your bird bath. This keeps the bath full and creates ripples which also attract birds. Install the nozzle about eye level directing the spray onto exterior foliage which you can readily see from where you normally watch birds. Depending on your yard, it may be desirable to relocate your existing bird bath underneath a small tree, or perhaps to plant a small tree next to an existing bath. Trees as small as 3 feet are acceptable. Good varieties include Silky and Kousa dogwood, crab apple and autumn olive. In case you don't have small trees, you can also attach the nozzle to a garden stake.

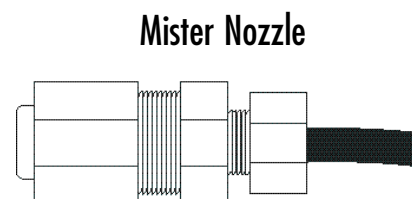
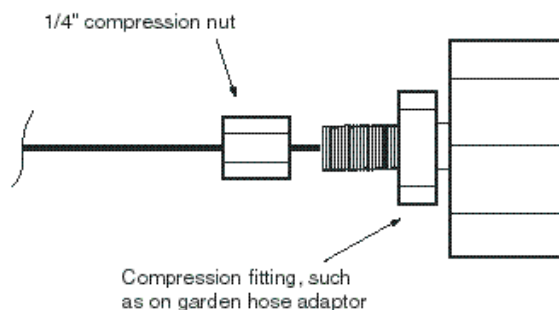
Following are some other recommendations for selecting a location:

- Avoid locations with dense ground cover which can hide a cat, as birds are very vulnerable to predators while bathing, and hence also very wary.
- Try to locate near good bird habitat, such as large trees for warblers, or hedge rows. This provides a tree "highway" to your bathing area.
- Locate your bird bathing facilities approximately 20 to 40 ft. from a patio or picture window where you often sit to watch birds. The closer distances can be used when you watch from a screen porch or from inside. The bird bath can be near feeders, but should not be so close that seeds and hulls fall into the water.

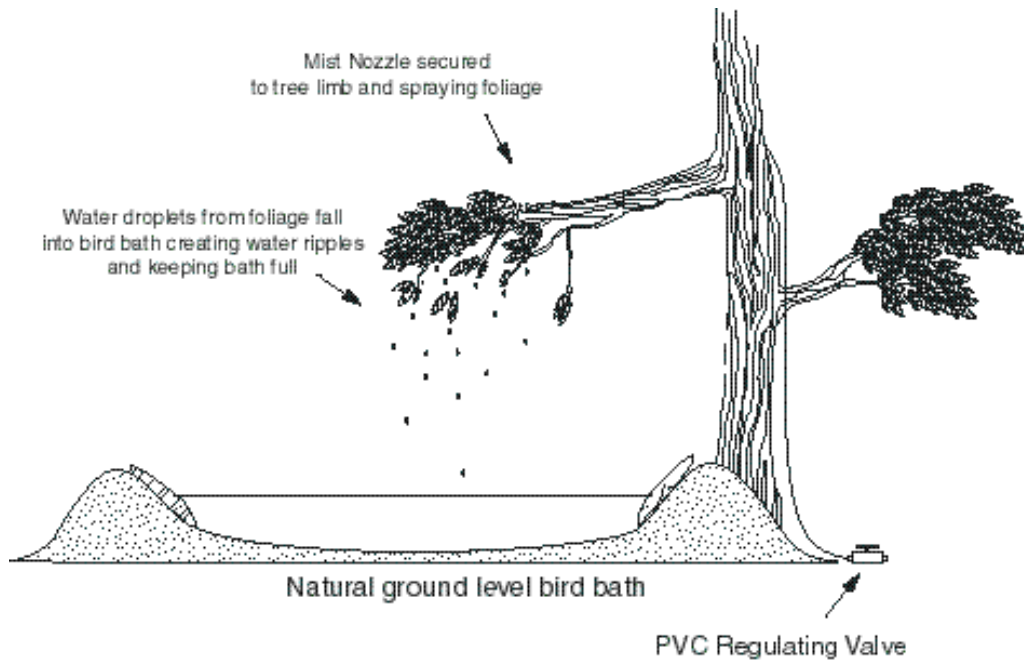
INSTALLATION:

To facilitate installing tubing on the barbed fittings immerse the ends of the tubing in hot tap water for about 15 seconds, then press the tubing over at least 2 barbs of the barbed fittings.

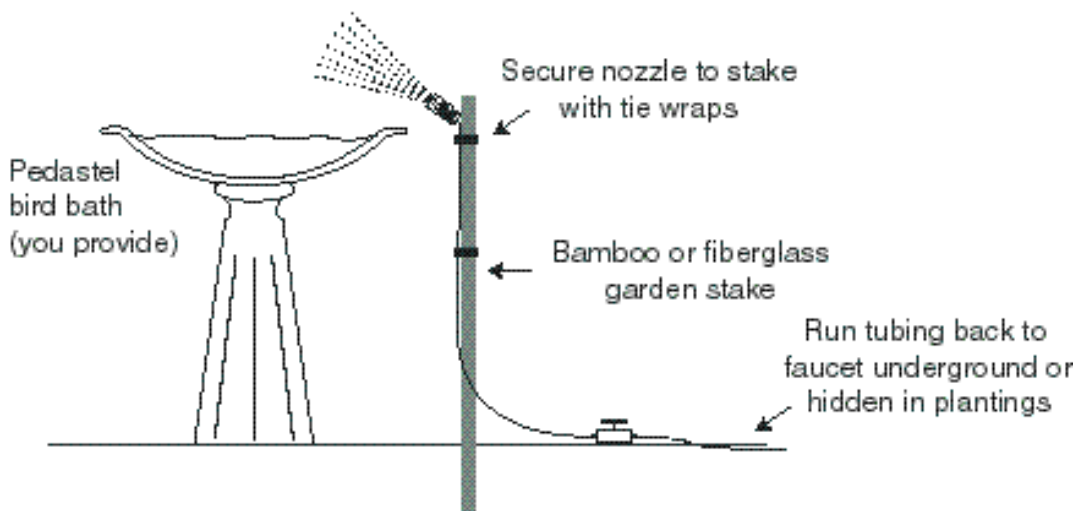
To install tubing on compression fittings, first remove the 1/4 inch nut from the fitting, next slide the nut over the tubing so that the tubing end protrudes, then insert the tubing end to the fullest extent into the recess in the fitting, and finally tighten the compression nut securely on the fitting.



For a tree installation, use the green tie wrap provided to secure the nozzle to the selected tree branch. Run the tubing back to the ground and select a convenient but inconspicuous location relatively close to the nozzle for the regulating valve. Cut the tubing and press each end over at least 2 of the barbs on the regulating valve.



For a garden stake installation simply locate the correct length flower stake and press it into the ground next to your bird bath. Secure the nozzle to the top of the stake with the tie wrap and position the regulating valve near the base of the stake.



Run the tubing above ground back to the nearest faucet. Install the Y valve and tubing adapter on the faucet, and then attach the tubing to the adapter. Turn the water on and check the spray pattern. Adjust via the regulating valve to get the desired spray pattern and velocity. Adjust the spray direction by repositioning the nozzle so that the mist wets the foliage you have selected. You may want to optimize this over a period of several days of observation.

If you have run the tubing across a lawn, you can hide it by opening a slit in the lawn with a shovel, inserting the tubing, and then pressing the slit closed over the tubing. Evidence of any work will disappear in just a few days. Excess tubing can be trimmed, or coiled out of the way.

If the 50 ft. of tubing provide was not enough, you should be able to buy more at a local garden center, hardware store, or auto parts store. Ask for 1/4" tubing (which is also 3/16" inside diameter). We have provided you with a spar connector to add more tubing, or to repair the tubing if accidentally cut while gardening. If you can not find any 1/4" tubing, you can order an additional 50 ft. roll from you dealer, or direct from Winged Aquatics. In the meantime you can make up for the missing small tubing with regular garden hose by screwing the Y valve and adapter on the end of the garden hose.

ROUTINE OPERATION:

It is best to operate your Feather Mister™ on a daily basis so that the birds learn they can count on cool fresh water. A regularly operated mister will also keep the bird bath below it full. The easiest and most dependable way to operate the spray on a daily basis is by using a battery operated water timer, which can be purchased from most local garden centers, hardware stores, or home center stores. We prefer the Waterminder® II timer for reliable shut-off at the low flows involved. 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.

When temperatures fall below 50°F, misting becomes much less appealing to the birds. You can then convert your mister to a dripper by removing the mist nozzle, positioning the tube end so that it inclines slightly down, and then closing the regulating until you get a slow drip rate from the end of the tubing.

MAINTENANCE:

If at any time you experience low flows or a distorted spray pattern, clean the filter just before the nozzle, and if required, clean the nozzle itself. If you have a lot of rust in your water, also check the strainer in the adapter on the Y valve. For a spray system used routinely with clean water, cleaning once per year should be sufficient. An old tooth brush works well for cleaning the filter. Rinsing the nozzle tip should sufficient to clean it. Do NOT stick pin in the nozzle as this destroys the critical mist forming shape.

AUXILIARY PARTS:

The following spare parts can be ordered from you dealer or direct from Winged Aquatics:

- Nozzle assembly
- Nozzle and filter
- Needle valve with fittings
- 50 ft. 1/4" tubing plus connector
- 1/4" T connector for system expansion

WINTER:

Caution: *The Feather Mister™ is not meant for operation below freezing. If freezing weather is anticipated, remove the Y valve and tubing adapter from the faucet and store inside. Failure to disconnect the Y valve or other devices from the faucet before freezing weather could result in a ruptured water line in your house.*

Also, remove the regulating valve and nozzle assembly and bring them inside to be cleaned and stored. The 1/4" tubing can be left in place. When reconnecting your system once warm weather has returned, flush the 1/4" tubing prior to reattaching the mister and regulating valve.

HAPPY BACKYARD BIRDING!