



PONDS NEED *NOT* APPLY

Water features such as pondless waterfalls often serve as landscapes' crown jewels.

Create a disappearing waterfall in 12 easy steps.

BY GARTH EPP

POND-FREE WATER

FEATURES, also known as “pondless,” “no pond” or “disappearing” waterfalls, range in size from 12 in. tall and 8 in. wide, up to 20 ft. tall and wide. Many have long meandering streams, while others are simply falls that vanish into a bed of

rocks. Because these disappearing waterfalls do not include ponds, the maintenance and upkeep on these water features is minimal.

The first step in the construction process is to determine the desired outcome of the project by the homeowners. I am not referring to

visually how it should look, but more how they want their lives to improve with changes to their landscape. This answer to this question is key to the success of the entire project.

Once you have determined the motives for wanting such a feature, tour

the yard and the interior of the home. Consider any location that will meet their desires and be enjoyed from both the interior and exterior of the home. Keep in mind that an outdoor water feature can be enjoyed from indoors.

It is also often believed that a backyard waterfall is restricted to corners of the lot. This is not true. In many cases, the corners are the worst places for falls.

PONDLESS WATERFALL

Begin the build

1 Use a garden hose to form the shape of the base of the falls where the water will disappear into the ground. Use brightly colored spray paint to create an outline on the ground. Make sure the area is not larger than the piece of pond liner you have purchased. This area will become the bottom collection basin for the water.

2 Place the spillway unit for the falls in position.

This large plastic container will fill with water, then overflow and become the head of the waterfall. Depending on your desired outcome, you might simply have the unit rest on the ground and mound soil up around it, or you might

choose to elevate it higher to get more height to the falls. For a gentle flowing stream, it's generally suggested to have the unit 6 ft. to 8 ft. away from the bottom basin.

3 Attach your plumbing pipes to the spillway before the excavation. Use a sealant like polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE, or plumber's) tape on all threaded fittings. Now is the time to make sure everything is watertight, before it's all buried and concealed. Once the pipe is sealed and in place, you can cover it with soil you excavate from the basin to hide it from view. It's a good idea to make sure the pipe has a gradual slope from the spillway unit to the basin so it can be easily flushed and

drained if needed.

4 Use a level to ensure the unit is sitting on even ground. If the ground is tamped well and solid, it will prevent the unit from becoming uneven from the ground settling.

5 Dig the basin at the base of the falls. The basin does not need to be more than 24 in. deep. It's important to make sure the edges of the basin are level so it will fill evenly with water.

As your team digs the basin, use the soil to backfill around the water feature's spillway unit. It's a good idea to have someone stand in the spillway unit while it's being tamped and backfilled so it does not move out of position.

Water features routinely rank among the top landscape design/build projects homeowners are interested in adding.



Landscape Design Software

that makes an impact!

visual impact imaging
EARTHSCAPES

Landscape Design Software

Earthscapes is so popular for one simple reason: **it sells jobs!** By enabling you to provide your customers with professional proposals that include dazzling images, Earthscapes guarantees that you will make more sales. With this type of sales firepower working for you, your competition doesn't stand a chance.

- High resolution photo-imaging
- Design to-scale site plans in B&W or color
- Extensive Plant and Hardscapes Library
- Compatible with over 30 different file types
- Runs on Windows XP and Vista
- ...and many more outstanding features

www.EarthscapesDesigns.com

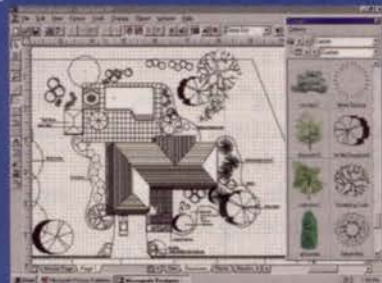
Visit our website for a free demo or call 330.259.7661



#1 Landscape Design Software

Professional. Easy to Use.
Affordable.

Powered by:
COREL





WEB EXTRA!

For more information on pondless waterfalls, visit www.landscapemanagement.net/pondless_extra.

6 Once the basin is excavated, remove sharp objects such as roots or rocks from the basin. Now lay the geo-textile underlay in the basin, starting at the bottom, and work out all the slack so it conforms to the shape of the hole. The underlay is there

strictly to protect the underside of the liner. You don't need to line the future stream

bed at this point.

Now place the liner over the underlay. The liner should extend outside the basin. It can be cut back later if necessary. It's better to use a liner that's too large than too small. Provided all

was measured and planned ahead, it should fit correctly.

7 Place the pump vault in the basin, with several large pieces of drainage pipe to act as filler in the basin bottom. This will reduce the amount of rock needed to fill the basin and will eliminate the weight of the rocks resting directly on the interior of your pond liner.

8 Fill the basin with rinsed clean rock within a couple of inches from the top. Start with larger rocks on the bottom, and place smaller rocks on top. This acts as a natural filter for the feature.

9 Once the rocks are in the basin, fill it with water to clean the rocks. Use a small sump pump to expel dirty water. This will help

Proudly Presented by: California Association of Nurseries and Garden Centers

The Garden Market Expo

The ONLY Expo for the Southwest!



NEW LOCATION!
FREE DRAYAGE!
EXCITING FLOOR PLAN!

WHAT: Garden Market Expo 2009
WHEN: September 23 & 24, 2009
WHERE: Las Vegas Convention Center, North Hall

Register **TODAY:**
www.GardenMarketExpo.com

Call Stephanie at 1-800-748-6214 ext.#16,
or email: srodgers@cangc.org

OTHER EXCITING EVENTS

Golf Tournament @ Bear's Best

September 22, 2009
Hosted beverage cart, free shuttle,
catered luncheon, and exciting prizes!
Contact: dadams@cangc.org

Wynn/Encore Grounds Tours

September 24, 2009
Tour horticulture and floral facilities, 10
acres of lush landscaping, one-hour tours!
Contact: dadams@cangc.org

HOTEL INFO

Las Vegas Hilton Hotel

Host Hotel - Mention Garden
Market Expo 2009 and receive a
special room rate of \$129!
1-800-635-7711

PONDLESS WATERFALLS

Going pondless is a quick and cost effective way to add a waterfall.

the water in the completed project clear more quickly. Now attach the liner to the spillway. This process is very important to do correctly, so the water flows on top of the liner right from the source and does not get under the liner. Specific instructions for this step will be enclosed with the particular equipment that is purchased.

10 Place a large rock on either side of the spillway spout to frame the head of the waterfall. Secure a flat rock on the spout using black waterfall foam. The rock should be no more than 3/4-in. thick. Slate works well.

11 Create the stream and waterfall — the toughest part of the project. The

goal is to make the stream and waterfall blend perfectly into the landscape, as though the home and yard were built around it. The stream should twist and turn, as this will make it look more natural.

12 After the stream is excavated, line it with an underlay and liner about 10x15 ft. in size. Then dig several large divots to inset larger rocks.

Do not form a fixed course for the water. It looks much more natural if the water appears to have chosen its own course of flow through a natural random assortment of rocks. In nature, water rocks are "placed" in uneven patterns along a stream or waterfall.



Carefully select and place varying-sized rocks on the perimeter of the stream.

Put black waterfall foam into the divots you dug earlier, and place large rocks on top. The foam will restrict water from flowing under rocks and will force it to flow above and around the rocks.

You can adjust and tweak the flow of the waterfall by placing smaller stones and gravel on the waterfall cas-

cases until the desired effect is achieved. This will change the sound and appearance of the flowing water. Remember: Without exception, large waterfalls require the use of large rocks. *L.M.*

EPP is editor and owner of BuildingMyPond.com, an online resource dedicated to water gardening and water feature installation. He can be reached at 403/671-0797.

MONTAGE®

by AMERISTAR®

www.MONTAGEFENCE.COM



Fusion-welded for durability
E-coated maintenance free finish
Backed by 20-Year Warranty



AMERISTAR®

1555 N. Mingo Road Tulsa, OK 74116
Phone 1-888-333-3422 Fax 1-877-926-3747
www.montagefence.com Email: mktg@ameristarfence.com



High Quality Mowing

INDEPENDENT INNOVATORS

Take a Test Drive Today

WALKER MOWERS

5925 E. Harmony Road • Fort Collins, CO 80528
800.279.8537 • www.walkermowers.com