



HOW TO ASSEMBLE YOUR OWN
BIRD DRIP
WATER FEATURE

A green, ornate bird water feature is the central focus. It consists of a black metal stand with a curved top that holds a green, shallow, scalloped-edged basin. A black pipe runs from the top of the stand down to a small nozzle in the basin. The basin is filled with water and several small, colorful stones. The water feature is set in a garden bed with dark mulch. In the background, there is a brick wall and a window with black shutters. A few small purple flowers are visible near the water feature.

Give your garden a bird-friendly upgrade with this DIY water feature!

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SUPPLIES

Total Cost ~ \$60.34

- 1 ¾" Backflow preventer (\$4.97 Home Depot)
- 2 ¾" FHT Preset Pressure Regulator at 25 PSI (\$6.97 Home Depot)
- 3 ¾" Swivel Adapter with Screen (\$2.48 Home Depot)
- 4 ¼" Drip Irrigation Barb Connectors (\$2.47 Home Depot)
- 5 ¼" Irrigation Hole punch (\$1.64 Home Depot)
- 6 ½" Irrigation tube stakes (\$4.97 Home Depot)
- 7 A few Zip ties, and some extra in case of mistakes.
- 8 Garden Shepherds hook, 18 to 46" depending on height of bird bath or reservoir.
- 9 50' or more ½" Poly Drip Irrigation Tubing (\$14.49 Home Depot IMPORTANT don't buy tubing with pre-punched drip holes, you want solid tubing).
- 10 50' or more ¼" Poly Drip Irrigation Tubing (\$5.98 Home Depot IMPORTANT don't buy tubing with pre-punched drip holes, you want solid tubing).
- 11 .05 Gallon per Hour (GPH) Dripper x1 (usually indicated by a brown color) (\$1.62 Home Depot)
- 12 Bird bath or some sort of water basin/reservoir
- 13 Hose end Figure 8 (\$1.78 Home Depot)
- Optional: Drip timing can be regulated using an Irrigation Timer (\$30 - \$100)*

Keep in mind this project does not include the cost of the basin or system that your water will be dripping into. This could be a bird bath, a pond, and bowl, etc. You can get as fancy and creative, or simple as you want with this portion. In general, a bath should be shallow enough for a small bird to sit in with its head above the water. Clean regularly to avoid algal growth.



Kits can also be found at your local hardware store.
Shepherds hook not included.

DIG Drip Irrigation Watering Kit (\$29.97 Home Depot - or similar irrigation kit)

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Important!

The first and most important step to any landscaping project is to **call 811** and have your landscape marked for utilities. Avoid digging in areas where gas lines are present.

1



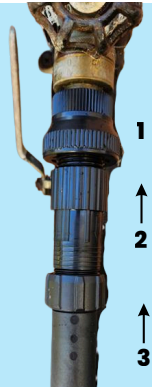
Determine drip location and place the **bird bath**¹² accordingly, keeping in mind proximity to your water source.

2



Unravel and place the **½" poly tubing**⁹ in direct sunlight 30 minutes. This will allow the plastic to relax, making the tubing easier to work with.

3



Meanwhile, **on an outdoor spigot**, attach the **backflow preventer**¹, followed by the **compression swivel adapter**² and **pressure regulator**³.

4



After 30 minutes, lay out the **½" poly tubing**⁹ from the water source to just past the bird bath location. Create an "S" shape to allow for expansion and contraction of the tube in changing weather.

Tip: If you have a native plant garden, this bird drip can double as a water source for your plants while they are adapting to new earth!

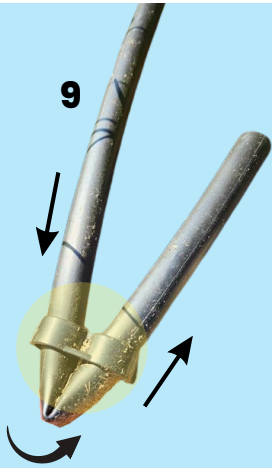
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5



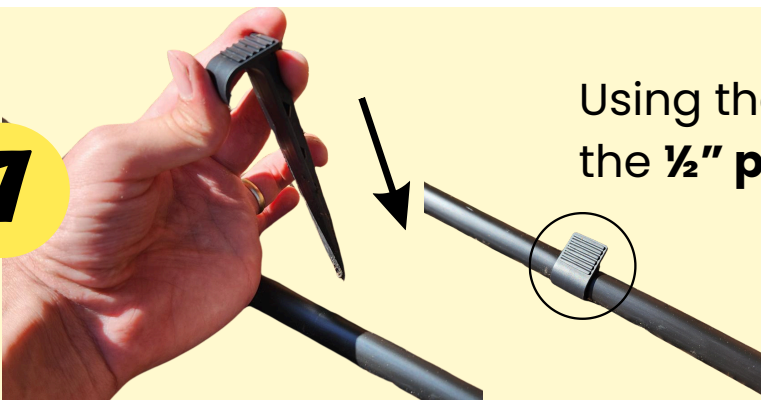
Insert the $\frac{1}{2}$ " **poly tubing**⁹ into the **pressure regulator**³ by turning counterclockwise until tight. Run the water for about 20 seconds to clear out any dust or debris in the poly tubing.

6



Insert the other end of the $\frac{1}{2}$ " **poly tubing**⁹ into one hole of the **Hose End Figure 8**¹³, bending the tubing and passing it through the other hole. Ensure a snug fit - this prevents water from escaping the tube.

7



Using the $\frac{1}{2}$ " **poly hose stakes**⁶, secure the $\frac{1}{2}$ " **poly tubing**⁹ to the ground

8



Insert the **shepherds hook**⁸ into the ground so that the hook end is directly over the bird bath.

In the next step, you will punch a hole for the $\frac{1}{4}$ " **poly tubing**¹⁰ parallel to the hook location.

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9



Punch a hole into the $\frac{1}{2}$ " **poly tubing**⁹ using the **hole punch**⁵. Insert one end of a **barb connector**⁴, pushing until you feel a "pop." Take one end of the $\frac{1}{4}$ " **poly tubing**¹⁰ and push it onto the other end of the **barb connector**⁴, gently twisting until snug.

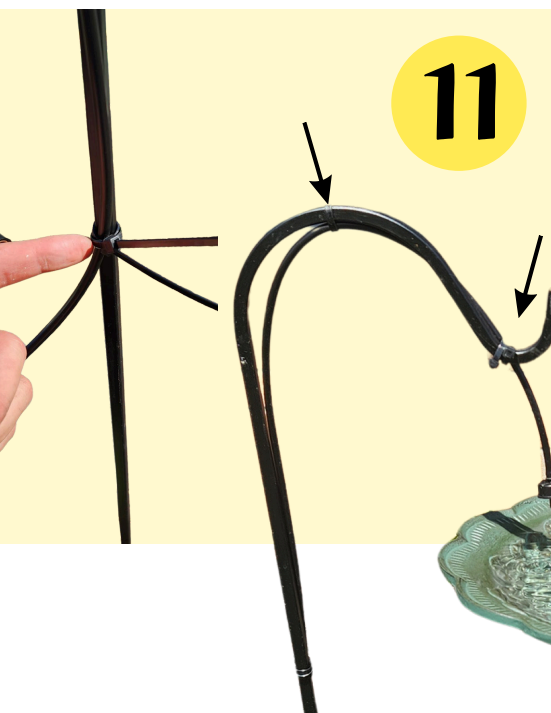
10



Run the connected $\frac{1}{4}$ " **poly tubing**¹⁰ from **step 9** along the ground and up the **shepherds hook**⁸ to estimate the amount needed. Be sure to run the tubing a few inches past the end of the hook, then cut with garden sheers or very sharp scissors.

Run the water for 20 seconds. Then, insert the barbed end of the **.05 GPH dripper**¹¹ into the cut end of the $\frac{1}{4}$ " **poly tubing**¹⁰.

11



Using **zip-ties**⁷, secure the $\frac{1}{4}$ " **poly tubing**¹⁰ to the length of the **shepherds hook**⁸, with the dripper hanging off of the end of the hook. Cut off the excess from each zip-tie.

Do not over tighten the zip-ties as it will restrict the water flow. Test the dripper and replace zip-ties as needed to ensure proper water flow.



12

Enjoy the birds that come to your bird drip!
Scan the QR code for online instructions and helpful links!



TAG US IN YOUR PHOTOS



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Follow, tag and share your bird-friendly
space with us at [@HoustonAudubon](https://www.instagram.com/HoustonAudubon).

