

Water Basics

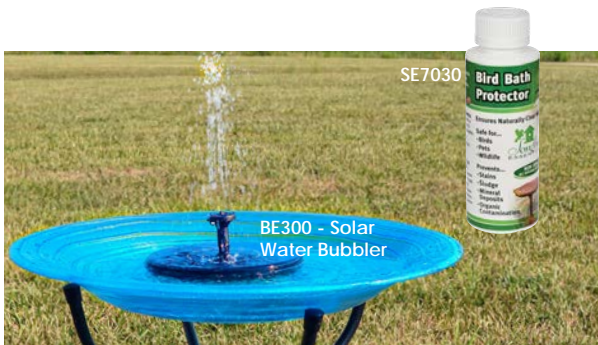


The most popular way to offer water is a birdbath, a shallow bowl made specifically with birds in mind to allow them to easily bathe in and drink from.

It is very important to keep birdbath water clean. This water should be changed every few days to ensure a fresh, clear supply. Adding all-natural SE Birdbath Protector to the water will keep it clean with less effort.

Some birds, like Hummingbirds, prefer to fly through a fine mist of water instead. For this, using a water mister is appropriate. Our SE7019 Mister only uses 1 gallon of water per hour. Hummingbirds who fly through the mist, and birds that take leaf baths when the mister is placed near a tree or shrub, love it.

In every circumstance, moving water is always better as it attracts 10 times more birds than water that sits still while preventing mosquitoes. Placing our BE300 Solar Water Bubbler in your bath can get the water moving and keep the birds coming back.



The More You Know

How do birds drink?

Most birds, like Cardinals, dip their bills into the water and then tip their heads back to let the water run down their throats. Doves and Pigeons drink by immersing their bills and sucking up the water (much like a horse).

Not all birds need to drink water, though. Hummingbirds, for example, have a largely liquid diet. While they may not consume the water, they do love to play in it!

Birds that live in areas with arid conditions can go for long periods of time without drinking.



Want To Know More?

Visit www.SongbirdEssentials.com for information on Water and more!

Songbird Essentials' Tips for Attracting Birds With Water



Attracting With Water

There is no better way to get birds flocking to your yard than a good source of fresh water. A bird's need for water through every season of the year is so strong that even species you never expected will be attracted to a strategically placed water source.

Placing a birdbath near trees improves security against raptors. The branches are also an easily reached perch from which to preen in safety.



SE509 - Heated Bath



SE995 - Versatile, Heated Bath

SE994 - De-icer

Water in the Winter

Winter is a difficult time of year when offering water to our backyard friends. However, offering water during this time is vital for the birds' survival. About 70% of a bird's non-fat body tissue is water, which needs to be maintained to avoid dehydration.

Birds also use water in the winter to keep warm. By cleaning their feathers and grooming them with natural oils, they are able to fluff their feathers and insulate their bodies from the frigid weather.

While they are able to find some water in natural food sources like insects, berries, and even snow, when those supplies dwindle, the water you supply is even more vital. For Finches, who only eat seed, having a water supply is critical year-round.

Adding a de-icer to your current birdbath will thaw frozen water and keep it thawed. De-icers are submersible in water, economical, and safe. While most de-icers won't keep the entire bath of water thawed under a certain temperature, they will keep enough thawed that birds can still utilize it for their needs.

Another alternative is to choose a birdbath with a heater built in.

Our birdbath heaters and heated baths with thermostats cost only pennies a day in electrical cost.



SE501 - Heated Bath

Choosing a Bath

A good birdbath mimics shallow puddles, which are nature's birdbaths. Choose a bath with a gentle slope from the outer edge to the center to allow birds to wade into the water.

Choose a material that is easy to clean as algae and sediment build up, and it is important to remove those often. In the cold, winter months we recommend using a hard plastic saucer. While ceramic, concrete, and glass materials are great in the summer, they will easily crack in cold temperatures from expansion and contraction that comes natural that time of year.

Rough-textured bottoms give birds areas to grip, which most closely resembles bottoms of natural puddles. If your bath lacks such texture, adding rocks or pebbles to the bottom of the bath is a great solution.

Birds sometimes prefer baths that are lower to the ground where puddles are typically found. However, the threat of a cat assault can determine that you need to place it higher for safety.

Choosing a versatile bath that can be clamped in place, mounted on a porch, or set on the ground, could be a great option. Our SE995 Songbird Spa offers all three options in one product.



SE5048

SE5071

SE5029