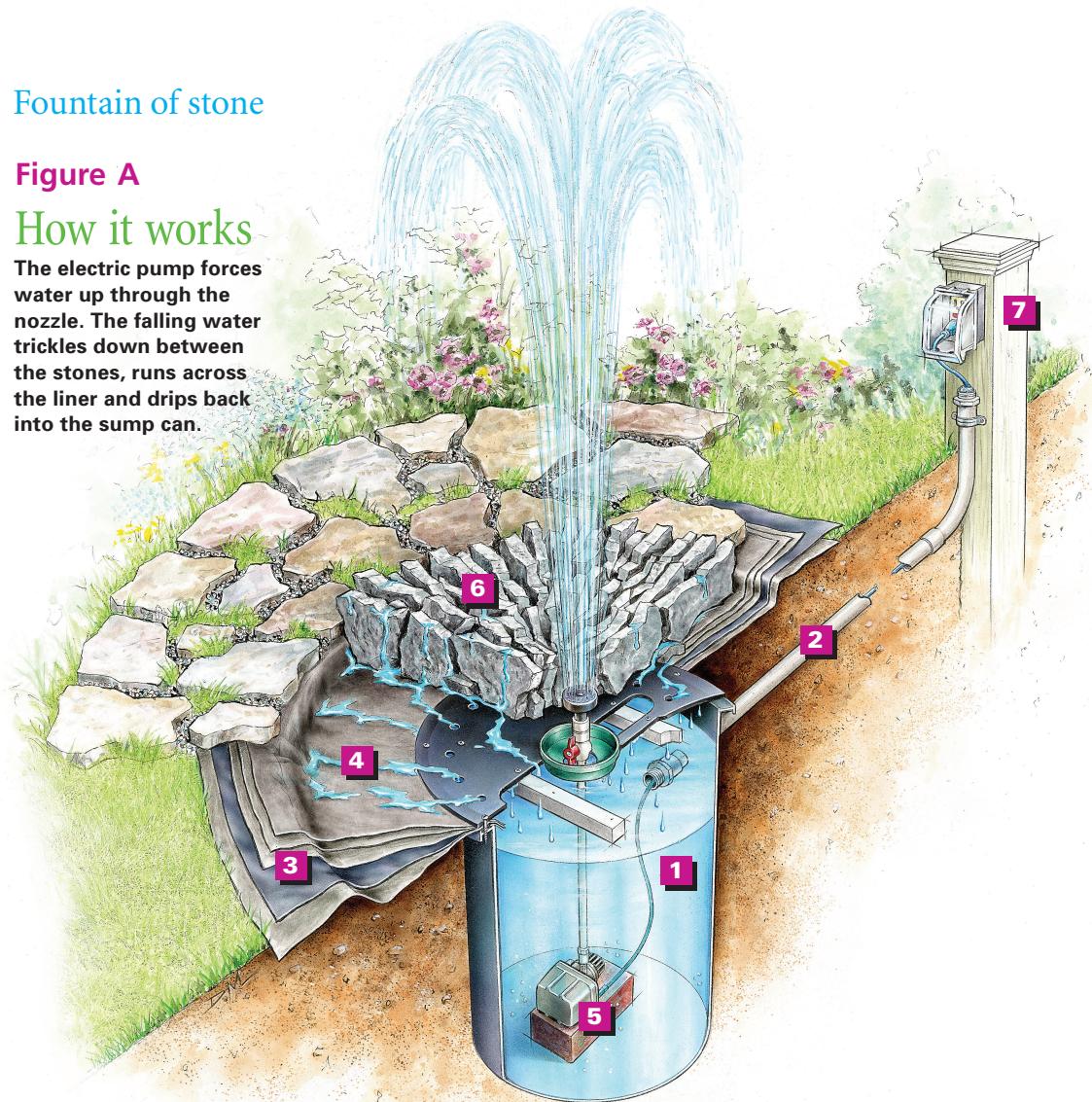


Fountain of stone

Figure A

How it works

The electric pump forces water up through the nozzle. The falling water trickles down between the stones, runs across the liner and drips back into the sump can.



What you need

- 1** The plastic **sump can** is simply a water container. It's sold as a "sump basin" (\$25) for a basement sump pump and holds about 20 gallons. A smaller container (like a 5-gallon bucket) would quickly run dry in hot or windy weather. Be sure to use a sump can with a lid that can be screwed on (see **Photo 9**).
- 2** Plastic **conduit** (1-1/4 in.) is normally used to protect permanent wiring, but we used it as an underground pathway for the pump's cord. Conduit is sold in 10-ft. lengths. You'll also need an elbow and two male threaded end fittings. Your conduit run must be shorter than the pump's cord. *Don't use an extension cord inside the conduit.* Most pumps have 16- or 20-ft. cords.
- 3** The **liner** is a waterproof barrier that channels water back into the sump can. We used a 5 x 5-ft. sheet of EPDM rubber (\$25), which is tougher than most other liner materials.
- 4** The **underlayment** is synthetic cloth that protects the liner from punctures. Normally, a single layer is placed under the liner. But because we set sharp stones on the liner, we spread three layers of underlayment *over* the liner as well. You could save about \$50 by using old carpet rather than underlayment.
- 5** The **pump** is rated by gallons per hour (gph). This rating, along with the nozzle, determines the height of the water spray. We wanted the water to shoot up at least 2 ft. and chose a 500-gph pump (\$100). Smaller pumps worked fine when the sump can was full, but the spray height dropped as the water level in the can dropped.
- 6** Any kind of **stone**, arranged in any way, can surround this fountain. We set flagstones on edge, but you could use rounded stones, a stack of stones or a bunch of colorful pebbles spread over the liner.
- 7** The **power supply** for the pump must be GFCI protected and sheltered by an "in-use" cover. The pump uses about as much electricity as a 100-watt light bulb.