

# How to Clean Your AeroGarden<sup>™</sup> Pump

We recommend that you clean your AeroGarden *Pump* after every seed kit. This will ensure that nutrients or plant roots do not clog the water flow. However, if your AeroGarden has started making a noise, this can be a sign of residue inside the *Pump*, and it should be cleaned.

### Supplies Needed:

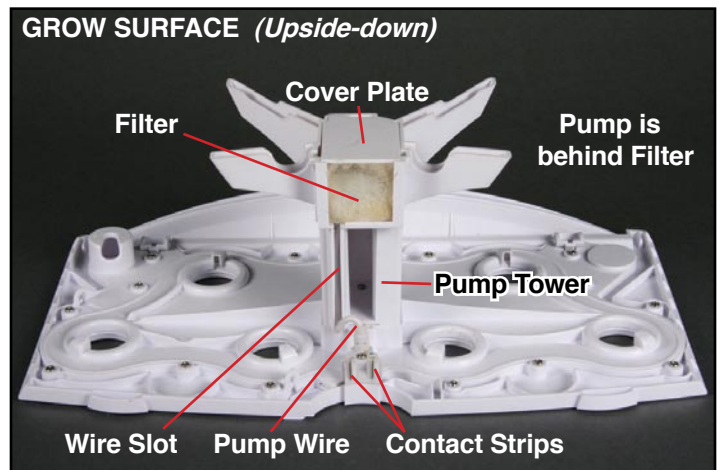
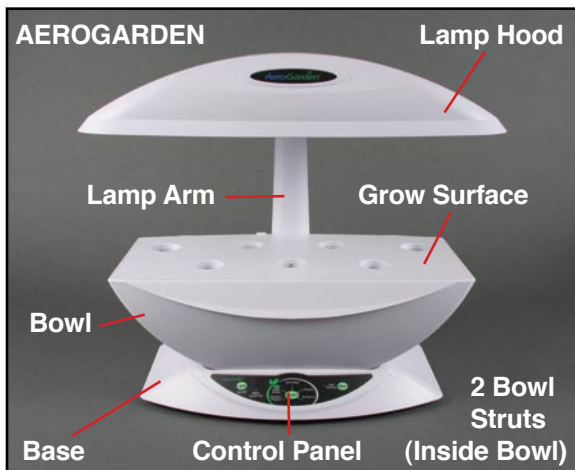
- Sink with Hot Water
- Dish Soap
- 1 gallon wide - mouthed container (such as a bucket)
- Towel (Optional)
- Extra *Filters*

### Time Needed:

Approx. 10 - 15 minutes

## PLEASE READ ALL INSTRUCTIONS BEFORE YOU START!

The most convenient time to clean the *Pump* is during the “**Preparing for your Next Garden**” cleaning steps, which can be found in the back of any “Tending and Harvesting” guide. If you are cleaning the *Pump* while your AeroGarden is planted, be sure to save the water from your *Bowl* as described in steps 3 & 4 below.



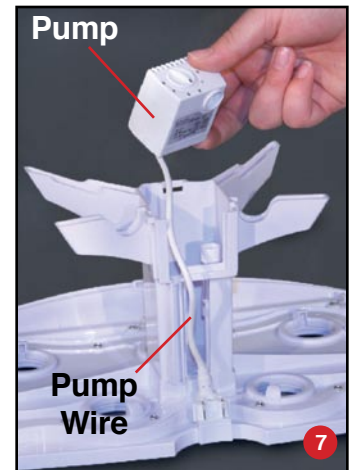
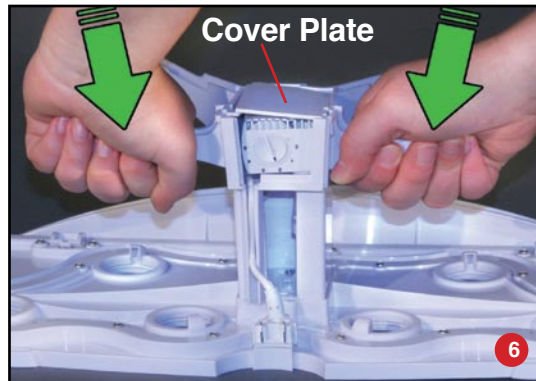
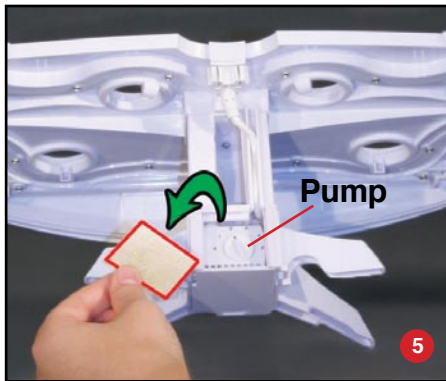
## REMOVE PUMP

(Skip steps 3-4 if you are cleaning *Pump* while preparing to plant a new garden)

- 1 Unplug your AeroGarden, and remove *Bowl* from *Base*.
- 2 Remove *Grow Surface* and place in sink (or over towel) as roots will drip water.
- 3 Pour all of the water from the *Bowl* into another wide-mouthed container that holds at least 1 gallon.
- 4 Gently remove *Seed Pods* from the *Grow Surface* openings and place them in the container with water so the roots are in the water. \*Note position of *Seed Pods* in the *Grow Surface* openings so that you can replace them in the same order. Don't worry if you tear a few roots or pull the *Bowl Struts* out of place.

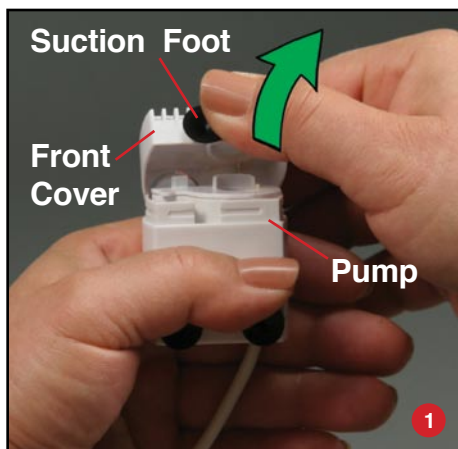
## REMOVE PUMP (Continued)

- 5 Remove *Filter* from the bottom of the *Pump Tower* and rinse under hot water. \*Missing or torn *Filter*? See Troubleshooting on Page 4.
- 6 Turn *Grow Surface* upside down and press down on the two short legs of the *Pump Tower* to pop the *Cover Plate* off. You may need to use some force.
- 7 Remove *Pump* from *Pump Tower* and pull *Pump Wire* from *Wire Slot*.
- 8 Rinse out any residue or roots from *Pump Tower*.

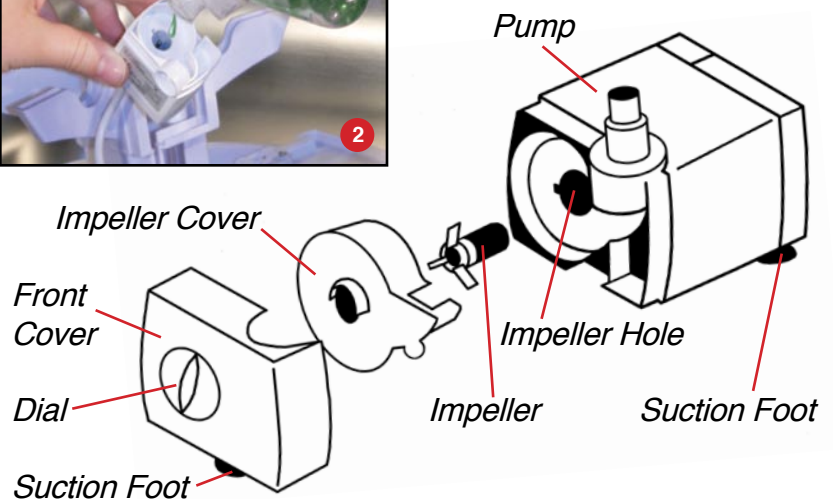


## CLEAN PUMP

- 1 To disassemble *Pump*, grasp around *Pump* with one hand while pushing out and forward on the *Front Cover Suction Foot* with your other hand. Remove *Front Cover*, then *Impeller Cover*, then *Impeller*. Rinse all parts and *Pump* in hot water.
- 2 Put a drop of dish soap in the *Impeller Hole* and reassemble the *Pump* parts. Place *Pump* back into *Pump Tower*. Do not put the *Cover Plate* back on at this time.



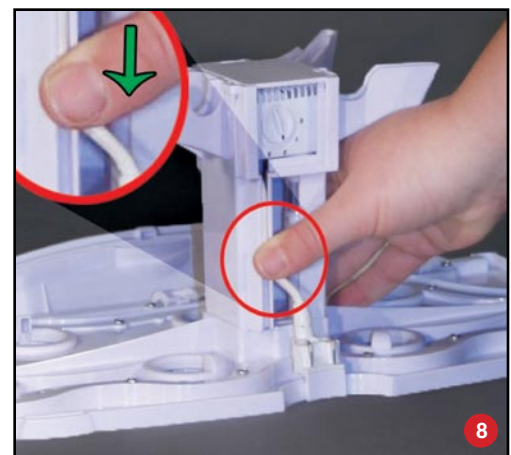
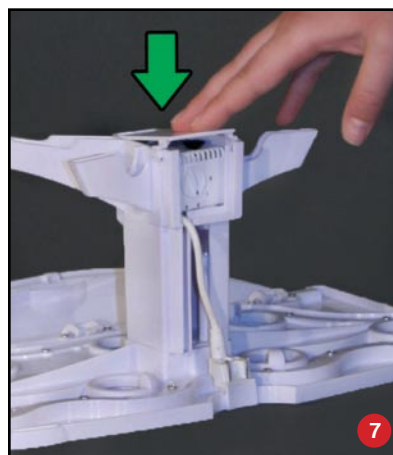
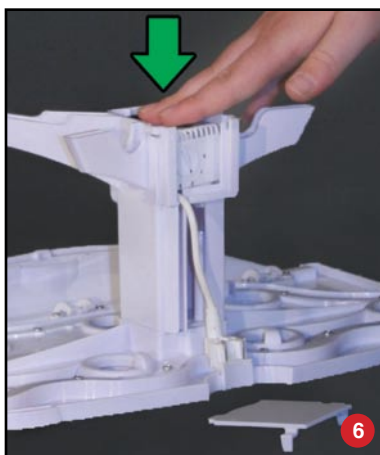
## PUMP PARTS



If you are having trouble removing the *Front Cover* by hand, you may use a small flathead screwdriver or coin edge to pry around the seam where the *Front Cover* joins the *Pump*.

## CLEAN PUMP (Continued)

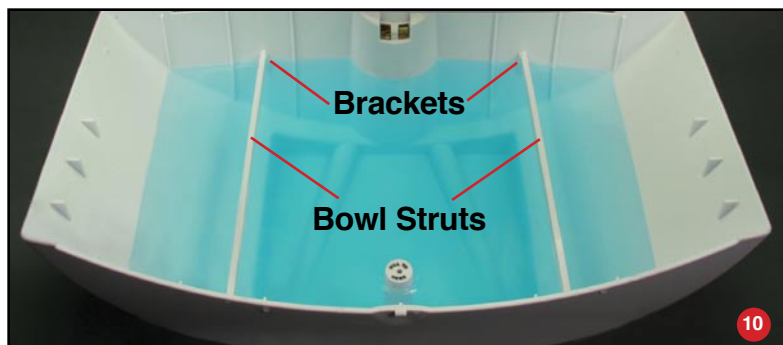
- 3 Turn the *Grow Surface* right side up and place it into the empty *Bowl*. Place *Bowl* back onto *Base* and plug in your AeroGarden. Your *Pump* will start. Allow *Pump* to run for 3 minutes. If your *Pump* does not start, see Troubleshooting on Page 4.
- 4 After 3 minutes, unplug your AeroGarden. Remove the *Bowl* from the *Base*. Remove the *Grow Surface* from the *Bowl*. Turn *Grow Surface* upside down. Take apart the *Pump* again and rinse all parts and *Pump* in hot water until no soap residue remains. \*If you are cleaning your *Pump* due to noise issues, repeat Cleaning steps 2 - 4 to reduce the noise further. If this fails to reduce the noise, please see "Pump is still Noisy" in Troubleshooting on Page 4.
- 5 When you are finished cleaning the *Pump*, set the *Front Cover Dial* to '2' and reassemble the *Pump* parts.
- 6 Place *Pump* into *Pump Tower*. Suction feet should point upward and *Pump Wire* should be aligned with *Wire Slot*.
- 7 Place *Cover Plate* onto the bottom of the *Pump Tower* and push down until all corners snap into place.
- 8 Push *Pump Wire* back into *Wire Slot*. Place *Filter* back into slots in front of the *Pump*. \*If you do not have a *Filter*, please see Troubleshooting on Page 4.



- 9 Turn the *Grow Surface* right side up on a towel or in your sink. Replace your *Seed Pods* into the *Grow Surface* openings.

## CLEAN PUMP (Continued)

- 10 Pour water from the container back into your *Bowl* and, if needed, add fresh water up to the top of the “Fill to Here” inside the *Bowl*. *Bowl Struts* should be returned to the brackets inside *Bowl*. The brackets are on the inner front and back walls of the *Bowl*.
- 11 Place *Grow Surface* into *Bowl*.  
Place *Bowl* into *Base*.  
Plug in AeroGarden.



## TROUBLESHOOTING

### Missing or Torn Filters

If you have planted more than three *Seed Kits* in your AeroGarden, you may notice the *Filter* has started to degrade. In other cases, you may have misplaced the *Filter* while cleaning or replanting.

A temporary *Filter* can be made from a Green Scrubby Pad, like the ones used to scour pots and pans. Be sure you are NOT using a pad that has soap in it. Cut a 1½" x 1⅝" square and press into place in the *Pump Tower* opening in front of the *Pump*. New *Pump Filters* can be ordered by calling **AeroGrow Customer Service** toll-free at **1-800-476-9669** or on our website at **www.aerogrow.com**

### Pump Does Not Start

The *Pump* is designed to cycle on and off. It may not start because your AeroGarden is in a “pump-off” cycle. To test your *Pump*, press the “Select” button on the *Control Panel* until you reach “Salad Greens.” (If you have an AeroGarden PRO or AeroGarden Deluxe, set it to the 24-Hour Light Cycle - instructions can be found in the **Quick Start Guide** that came with your AeroGarden). You should see water flowing over the plant roots. Be sure to return the AeroGarden to the correct plant setting after you are satisfied that your *Pump* is working correctly.

If the *Pump* does not start during this test:

- Make sure your AeroGarden is plugged into a working wall socket.
- Press down firmly on the *Bowl*, to make sure it is securely seated into the *Base*.
- With the AeroGarden unplugged, check the metal *Contact Strips* on the *Lamp Arm* and *Pump Tower*. If they are corroded, clean them with an old toothbrush and white vinegar.

If your *Pump* is still not working, please call Customer Service for more extensive troubleshooting.

### Pump is still Noisy

If you have cleaned your *Pump* to reduce noise and do not notice an improvement, please call Customer Service for more extensive Troubleshooting.

## AeroGrow Customer Service

Mon-Fri: 6am - 6pm, Sat: 8am - 4pm, Mountain Standard Time

**1-800-476-9669**