



Water Feature Maintenance Tips



Water features are a little tricky to get the hang of at first but this list will help you get started (save it for reference). As always, if you have any questions or concerns about your water feature, please do not hesitate to call us! For assistance in filling-in the blanks on this paper, please call Dreamscapes Watergardens at 717-272-6555. We are here for you.

Pond Information:

- ___ Your pond measures: _____ (Without rocks & gravel: L x W x Avg Depth x 7.48 = gallons)
___ Pond holds approximately _____ gallons of water. (With rocks & gravel: L x W x Avg Depth x 7.48 x .4 = gallons)
___ Your pond can sustain _____ inches of fish. *In order to maintain a balanced ecosystem, the general rule of thumb is a max of 1" of fish for every 10 gallons of water.*
___ Your pond should have at least ___ marginal plants and ___ lilies. Plants naturally filter the pond water of toxins and compete for the same nutrients that algae does. An Eco-system is being established and may take **2 to 3 Years** to fully mature. Expect increased issues with algae and/or water clarity until your plant roots grow.
___ Pump Information: Brand: _____ ; Size: _____ ; Model: _____
*Your pump should be big enough to turn over the entire pond's water volume 2-3 times an hour.
For example, if your pond is 500 gallons, you should be equipped with at least a 1500 gallon per hour pump.*

Spring Pond Care:

We recommend a FULL spring waterfeature drain and clean annually in order to successfully remove accumulated fish waste and dead organic matter (such as plant leaves) which turn to sludge. Excessive fish waste and dead organic matter contribute to algae growth during the summer months and can kill your fish. Dreamscapes offers this stress-free service seasonally so that you can spend time enjoying your waterfeature instead of maintaining it.

- ___ Add ___ ounces of **Aquascape Coldweather Beneficial Bacteria** weekly.
___ COLD WEATHER fish food is the only fish food that should be fed during 50-65 degree water temperatures, as it contains a wheat germ necessary for fish digestive systems (until roughly mid-May for this area). Switch to regular fish food once water temperatures rise above 65 degrees.

Summer Pond Care

- ___ Do not use any pesticides, fertilizers or round up anywhere near the pond! Even treatments that say "all natural" may contain chemicals that are toxic to fish.
- ___ **Overfeeding fish** will promote algae growth. Fish will continue to eat long past the point that they're hungry. Exercise caution when feeding your fishy friends to minimize poor water quality conditions. We recommend feeding every other day and to stop feeding fish entirely when water temperatures drop below 50 degrees (typically October-April).
- ___ Add ___ ounces of **Aquascape Beneficial Bacteria** weekly during summer months to keep the water clear and healthy. If water starts to turn green, you can add a double dose of Beneficial Bacteria daily until water starts to clear up.
- ___ Algaecides deplete the oxygen levels in your pond—you MUST DOSE ACCORDING TO POND VOLUME, as overdosing with algaecides can result in fish loss. Follow these measurements to keep fish safe:
String Algae Buster Dosage (hair-like water surface algae) : _____
Ecoblast (algae on waterfall rocks): _____
Liquid Algaecide (pea soup green water/ mild cases of string algae): _____

Please note:

During the height of pond season, approximately **40-60 percent** of your pond's surface should be covered with plants. This helps to shade the pond from direct sunlight, as direct sunlight promotes the growth of algae and increases the pond temperature, which reduces the oxygen levels that are important for your pond fish!

Fall/Winter Care:

For the health of the pond/fish, the following steps should be taken by **November:**

- ___ We are between Zone 5 and Zone 6 – Hardy Aquatic plants need cut back 1” above water surface.
- ___ Tropical Plants need pulled completely from pond before first frost (they will not come back in spring)
- ___ Hardy Lily Plants can remain in pond over winter
- ___ COLD WEATHER fish food is the only fish food that should be fed during 50-65 degree water temperatures, as it contains a wheat germ necessary for fish digestive systems.
- ___ STOP FEEDING FISH entirely when water temperatures drop below 50 degrees (typically October-April).
- ___ Leaves must be removed from the bottom of pond
- ___ Pond should be netted.
- ___ The pump must be removed, check valve disconnected and stored inside and in a bucket of water.

If you have fish:

- ___ A pond de-icer must be used to maintain a hole in the ice to allow toxic gases from fish waste decomposition to escape. For koi over 10” in length, an air station must operate for supplemental air. The bigger fish get, the more care they need to survive over the winter.
- ___ *NEVER bang a hole in the ice if your pond freezes over!* This could send shock waves through the water and be fatal for your fish. You can feel safe in sprinkling some Pond Salt ONLY where you want the hole to be, as Pond Salt will melt a hole through the ice similar to the way Rock Salt does on the roads and sidewalks. Please note that Pond Salt is different from Rock Salt, as regular sidewalk salt is not safe for fish.

Warranties of Products (Purchased at Dreamscapes Watergardens):

- ___ Aquascape Inc. Retail Pumps (excludes Pro Line) have a 3 year warranty with receipt present.
- ___ Aquascape Inc. Pond lights purchased after 2015 have a 5 year warranty with receipt present.

Homeowner Signature _____

Date: _____

DSWG Signature _____

Date: _____

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Don't keep us a secret – if you like your experience with us, introduce us to a friend!!!