

SPRING POND START-UP CHECK LIST

Step 1 Spring Cleaning

- When the ice has melted from the pond remove leaves and debris with either a net or pond vacuum, trying not to remove any water at this time.

Step 2 Water Change

Before starting this process make sure you have purchased Water Conditioner, Cold Water Beneficial Bacteria and a pond Thermometer

- When the temperature of the pond is above 40°F (5°C) do a water change of 35% to 60%, but no more than this. During this process try to remove any remaining debris from the bottom of the pond.
- Now replace the water back to the pond trying to get it at the same temperature of the pond using the thermometer. **Hint:** fill a container with water to warm up or run the garden hose at a very slow flow trying not to fluctuate the temperature.
- At the same time make sure to use a water conditioner to remove the chlorine from the tap water. If you are using containers to add water just treat for the quantity of the container, if adding water straight to the pond from the tap make sure to **treat for the total volume of the pond.** (To figure out pond volume= L'xW'xD'x7.5=US Gallons)
- Add a biological booster to the pond once the pond water temperature is above 40°F(5°C). Using a product like Aquascape Cold Water Beneficial Bacteria will help support your pond in this sensitive time and can be used until the temperature reaches 60°F(15°C). Once temperatures reach 60°F(15°C) you can switch to using Aquascape Beneficial Bacteria.
- 2-3 weeks later you may add a sludge remover to break down excess waste and any other organic sludge.

Step 3 Pumps and Filter Maintenance

- **Before starting your pump: The water temperature should be stable at 40°F (5°C)**
- Clean out the impeller and impeller housing, by soaking the pump for an hour using white vinegar, (**skipping this step can cause the impeller shaft to break**) rinse well before using. **Make sure to clean the pump throughout the season.**
- After the pump is cleaned and before running replace all old filter materials, all sponges and biological media need to be replaced every season or they will restrict water flow.
- Add barley straw extract or pellets to the pond; place barley straw pellets in an area of gentle flow in the pond. This is a great product that will help prevent algae problems and keep the pond clear.

Step 4 UV Sterilizers

- Replace the UV bulbs in your UV sterilizers and check the quartz sleeve for any cracks and damages and replace quartz sleeve if needed. Also check all the rubber seals and replace accordingly. Remove any debris or calcium deposits that may have developed you can soak this in white vinegar like you did in the previous step for your pump.
- Note: UV Bulbs only last for one season for regular bulbs and two seasons for power compact bulbs.
- **Turn on your UV after the water stays above 50°F(10°C) at night**
- **Note: UV units must be turned off for 48 hours when adding any bacteria products to the pond.**

Step 5 General Maintenance

- Add pond salt to replace essential electrolytes and to help fish fight off diseases 2 ½ cups per 100 gallons. Reduce salt for planted ponds use 1-¼ cups per 100 gallons. Note some tropical plants like Hyacinths may be sensitive to salt in higher doses.
- If pond is brown, green or murky using a product like Aquascape Pond & Debris Clarifier® will help remedy this problem. While using this product make sure to use Beneficial Bacteria as well as fine filter floss in your filter to help remove the small particles and help trap suspended algae.

Step 6 Feeding the Fish

- When the night time water temperature is between 50°F(10°C) and 60°F(15°C) you can feed a low temperature food, (some contain wheat germ) and only feed small amounts. Do not feed a summer food at this point, it will cause unnecessary digestive problems and or fish losses. Once night time temperatures are above 60°F(15°C) a summer food can be used to enhance the colors on the fish.

Step 7 Plant Maintenance

- Divide and re-pot any root-bound plants to larger pots and use a plant tablet food to help provide the necessary nutrients to the plants
- Do not put floating tropical plants like Hyacinths into the pond until the night time temperature is above 65°F (18°C). (Usually mid to late May and early June). Before adding the Hyacinths, a water change is recommended to lower the salt levels.
- It is recommended to have 60-70% surface coverage of your pond with floating plants, lilies, lotus etc. especially if pond receives full or afternoon sun and if there is no UV sterilizers

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For pond servicing and maintenance call William Guthrie (905) 518-2984 [Applicable charges for service call]