



Pond Care & Maintenance Tips

Clean out the skimmer box regularly

Clean out the skimmer box at least once a week. As leaves fall from nearby trees, you may need to empty your skimmer's debris net every day to keep up with the influx of leaves. Clean the green, sponge filter from inside the skimmer box by hosing out debris every couple of weeks.

Care for the life of your pump

Make sure your pump's flow is not restricted by debris and be careful not to pump water higher than it was intended. We recommend having the pump checked or serviced every six months by a certified Aquascapes contractor, to maximise the life of the pump.

Check gravel placement

Your fish may relocate the gravel in your pond. Be aware of any spots with little or no gravel as this will expose the pond's liner which makes it vulnerable to tearing and ripping.

Check the liner is not exposed

Regularly check that the rubber liner is not exposed around the edge of the pond. If the rubber does become exposed ensure it is covered by soil, rocks, or mulch.

Clean debris from pond before it has a chance to decay

Decaying debris, combined with fish waste, can cause ammonia levels to spike in your pond*. Some leaves will undoubtedly sink to the bottom of the pond and wetland filtration; try to remove as many leaves as you can. If you leave too much organic matter in your pond the water may turn brown**.

Add beneficial microbes

We have supplied you with 5L of Aquascape's Beneficial Bacteria to help keep your pond clean, clear and healthy. Put in 100ml of Beneficial Bacteria to every 100,000L of pond water per month***. Beneficial microbes also help keep your pond water healthy and clean for your finned friends. Contact us for recommendation on pond treatments to keep your fish healthy.

Water evaporation

Often, people do not realize how much water can evaporate from a pond during the hot days of summer. A top up valve has been installed to keep the pond water at a consistent level.

Keep your pond cool during the hot days of summer

When pond water exceeds 24°C, it has a more difficult time retaining acceptable levels of dissolved oxygen. This is why it is important to have your pond shaded by aquatic plants. Aquatic plants such as water lilies help provide fish with shade from the heat of summer sun, cooling the water and making algae control easier****. Fish need oxygen to survive; if you see them at the pond's surface gasping for air, add an aerator to help them during times of extreme heat.

Create a proper balance of plants

Regularly prune yellowing leaves off all your plants. At the peak of the season, you should have no more than 40% to 60% of the surface area of your pond either covered or shaded by plants. Too many plants can cause oxygen deficiencies at night due to the photosynthetic process, when the plants take in oxygen and give off carbon dioxide. Ensure you also check your plants for signs of infection such as spots.



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Water landscaping plants

If plants and trees have been planted as part of your pond solution please ensure they are watered daily for the first week after planting then every second day for the following two weeks then at least weekly for the next two weeks

Do not over-feed your fish

There is no need to feed the fish in your pond. Fish are algae and larvae eaters and by feeding them you are adding more nutrients into your pond that will make algae grow.

Maintain a healthy fish population and healthy fish

Pond fish typically need 38 litres of water for every 2.5cm of their length. To work out your pond volume use the equation length x width x depth. Be careful not to overstock your pond with fish and keep in mind they will grow larger over the years. Excessive fish waste can cause an imbalance in pond water. If you have excess fish, consider finding some of them a new home. We accept fish if your pond is overpopulated.

As well as keeping your pond population under control, make sure you are checking your fish for signs of ill health such as growths or poor swimming.

Spring Clean out

These routine maintenance tips are essential to keep your pond clean, clear and healthy. However, a pond or pondless system is a complex ecosystem with many parts. Therefore, we recommend minimally annual professional maintenance, which involves cleaning the biological and mechanical filters, checking equipment, removing debris, deep cleaning and power washing the whole system, and checking the general pond health.

We also offer routine and spring clean out maintenance packages. Please contact us for more details on our maintenance options. If you are concerned about a specific problem in your pond (e.g. algae or green water) contact SJC Landscapes and we can come out for a consultation. To order additional pond treatments visit Aquascapes Australia or contact us for additional supplies.

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*Ammonia can be harmful to your fish and should be addressed right away. If you see your fish jumping out of the water, you may have an ammonia spike which can happen after adding an algae treatment. You can purchase an ammonia test kit at your local pet and aquarium store and if you find the levels are high, simply treat your pond water with Ammonia Neutralizer. Contact SJC Landscapes for product supply needs or order through Aquascapes.

**If your water turns brown, remove the excess debris and add activated carbon to clear the water.

*** For the first three months add the bacteria once a week.

****If algae growth is a problem you may consider installing an Irongen as it combats string algae.



Pondless System Care & Maintenance Tips

Pondless Waterfall and Stream Maintenance

1. Remove debris such as fallen leaves and sticks as they collect in the pondless system.
2. If you see algae forming on the fountainscape add an algae treatment (powder or liquid algaecide). Consult SJC Landscapes for appropriate products to use.
3. Consider a professional deep clean annually. Throughout the year pondless streams and waterfalls can accumulate leaves, sticks and other debris. In a pondless deep clean we clean the biological and mechanical filters, check equipment, remove debris, deep clean and power wash the whole system, and check the general pond health. With our deep clean your pond will be performing ultimately and looking as good as new.

Fountainscape Maintenance

1. If you see algae forming on the fountainscape add an algae treatment (powder or liquid algaecide). Consult SJC Landscapes for appropriate products to use.
2. If you see a scale build up forming on the fountainscape add scale remover. Consult SJC Landscapes for appropriate products to use.

