

POND FAQ

Q. Why would I want a pond or pondless® water feature?

A. There are many reasons to add a water feature to your landscape. Much like a deck or gazebo, a water feature adds value to your property. The sounds of flowing water can mask noise from neighbors and traffic. The sight and sound of your water feature creates a great atmosphere for entertaining family and friends. A water feature allows you to add aquatic plants and fish to your landscape. The sight and sound of water has been shown to reduce stress, lower blood pressure, and improve mental and physical health.

Q. Utah is a high mountain desert. What about water conservation?

A. Although it takes a lot of water to initially fill a pond actually uses less water over the course of a year than the grass it replaces.

Q. How deep does a pond have to be?

A. Two feet deep is sufficient even for a pond with koi. Water will generally freeze 8 inches at most, even in the coldest winters. If you have fish you will simply need to keep a small hole in the ice to allow for gas exchange, a bubbler or low wattage de-icer will do this very well.

Q. Will the pond be a hazard to children?

A. A properly built pond will have step-like shelves to make getting out of the pond easy if they accidentally fall in. At only two feet deep, most children will be able to easily stand in it. You should educate your children about safety around the pond and take extra care supervising toddlers and infants.

Q. What if I have dogs that will get in the pond?

A. If you put rock in the pond as recommended there will be little or no risk your pets will be able to damage the liner.

Q. Can I have fish?

A. Absolutely. Along with plants, fish are a natural part of a balanced system.

Q. How many fish can I have?

A. A generally accepted rule of thumb is 1 inch of fish for every square foot of water surface.

Q. What about predators?

A. Predators are a legitimate concern for fish owners. While fish will avoid most threats like raccoons and snakes, herons require special precautions to avoid loss of your fish. A small cave or other place your fish can take shelter in will help them help themselves. It is unlawful to harm the heron but a motion sensing water spray can help scare it away..

Q. What should I consider when deciding the location of the pond?

A. A common mistake is to place the pond at the lowest point in the yard or where it is difficult to grow anything. The lowest point will also be where all the debris and runoff ends up making your pond a trash collector. If you can't get other plants to grow in a spot, you will probably have problems growing the wonderful aquatic plants that are an important component of your balanced pond. A pond should be placed where you will be able to see and enjoy the pond from the most used part of your yard.

Q. What kind of power requirements will the pond have?

A. Today's pumps are very energy efficient. A 2000 GPH pump from Aquascape™ uses only 250 watts. Pond lighting uses very little power too, especially if you use the new super efficient LED lights. Your whole pond could be powered by a single 15 amp line.

Q. Will I have to use chemicals?

A. Depending on the final location and conditions of your pond, it is often possible that a balanced pond will not need any additives. If extra treatment is necessary, we recommend Aquascape™'s biological treatments instead of harsh chemicals that can harm plants and wildlife. These are natural eco-friendly solutions to common problems.

Q. Will I have a problem with mosquitoes?

A. Mosquitoes need calm stagnant water to breed in. The flowing water of your waterfall or fountain head will keep the water's surface disturbed and discourage breeding. If any mosquitoes do breed in a secluded corner of the pond, your fish will happily take care of them for you. A biological control, like Mosquito Dunks, is also an option if you don't keep fish.

Q. Why use a rubber liner instead of concrete?

A. A flexible rubber liner will conform to any shape, is watertight and easy to repair if something should happen to pierce it. Concrete is expensive and difficult to install properly. Concrete is also prone to cracking and leaking. Once concrete has cracked, it is difficult to reliably make a watertight repair.

Q. Will I have algae?

A. It is possible to have algae growth in your pond especially if your pond is in full sun. It is not uncommon to get a brief algae bloom in spring when the water temperature starts to rise but your plants are still coming out of their winter dormancy. Additional plants, like water lilies, will help shade a full sun pond and the spring bloom will fade with time. We do have algae control products to help treat the problem until your pond balances itself out.

Q. How often do I have to drain the pond to clean it?

A. You should only have to do a full clean out once a year at most. A well-balanced pond will not need a full clean out at all.

Q. What do I do with the pond in winter?

A. It is possible to run your pond all winter long. Extra care needs to be taken to make sure ice dams do not divert the water away from the pond. If you shut down your pond you will want to disconnect and drain the plumbing to prevent water freezing inside the lines and causing damage. The pump can remain in the water as long as it stays below the ice. If you do remove the pump it should be kept in water, like a 5 gallon bucket, in a non-freezing location. If you have fish you will need to make sure a small hole is kept open in the ice to prevent toxic gas buildup. A small bubbler place on an upper shelf or a low power de-icer will work just fine. Do not put a bubbler on the bottom of the pond because this will disturb the thermal balance of the pond and is bad for the health of your fish.