

Rejuvenate Your Pond With a Spring Cleaning!

The early spring cleanout...

What you get:

Why we recommend cleaning ponds.

- Every spring the sun thaws the winter's freeze. Longer days wake up dormant plants and animals. Spring rains fill streams which in turn flush out lakes and ponds. This is nature's way of preparing for a new season of life. With a manmade pond, you need to give nature a hand to simulate this process. Replenishing the water in your pond once a year allows you to begin a new season fresh. Since your balanced ecosystem keeps your pond healthy the rest of the year, an annual clean out gets your pond off to the right start.

Do you have to perform a full clean out?

- Every pond is different and some ponds do not require a clean out. Ponds larger than 2000 square feet might need a clean out every few years. Larger ponds may never need a complete clean out because the ecosystem is so healthy and heavy rains replenish large quantities of water at a time. In essence, the larger the pond the easier it is to maintain. You can tell just by looking at the pond. If it looks the same in March as it did last June, it's probably okay to let it go.

Why we clean ponds in the spring.

- The problem we find with a fall cleaning is that the majority of leaves and windblown debris settle and decompose at the bottom of the pond, resulting in poor water quality. No matter how thorough the fall clean out, you will have a difficult time starting out the season next spring with crystal clear water. Fish get stressed during a clean out, fall or spring.

Don't scrub away algae.

- You're not trying to sterilize a pond during a clean out! String algae is a natural and healthy part of an ecosystem, as long as it is kept in check. We use string algae buster throughout the season to help reduce the amount of string algae in the pond. Simply remove all the large debris by hand and do a quick once over with a power washer. After power washing, use the water from a garden hose, pouring out over the stones and gravel to channel debris to the pond bottom where your pump will remove it. Start at the top and work your way down the ledges, using only the water hose. Soon you will notice that the water pooling around the pump has started to clear up. You are now ready to start filling the pond. While filling, pull out the media nets and filter mats found in the biofalls and skimmer. Clean with the pressure washer. Scoop out the biofalls of any sediment, replace the filter mats. The fish can be carefully placed into the pond once it is 1/3 full. Be sure to add dechlorinator before introducing the fish if the water is from a city water supply. Acclimate the fish to the water temperature by floating them in a small bucket for 30 minutes or so. Fish may go into shock from to rapid a temperature change.

Final thoughts on clean outs.

- Pond clean outs are cold, dirty work. Cleaning out a pond when the temperature of the water is above 55 degrees disrupts the already established ecosystem. Beneficial bacteria colonies may be reduced. Excessive nutrients in the water may cause the water to turn green until the bacteria catch up.

Spring tip:

Don't feed your fish or add bacteria until the water temperature is above 50 degrees.

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