



Do-it-yourself Installation

- **How often will I need to clean my water garden?** Where the water garden is located and what components you use to build it will help determine how much and how often you'll need to clean your water garden. Our MicroPond[®] kit contains a MicroSkim[®] water garden skimmer that allows you to draw any debris that falls into the water garden off and into the skimmer net and brushes. This one tool, alone, will save you hours of work every year, so we strongly recommend its use.
- **I'm not comfortable putting a water garden in my yard because of my young children, but I really want the sound of running water in my yard. What can I do?** There are many people that want a water garden but can't for any number of reasons. This has led to one of the fastest growing segments of the water garden business: Pondless[®] Waterfalls. You can enjoy the sounds of a waterfall, without the worry of having an open body of water in your yard with Aquascape's MicroPondless[™] Waterfall kit. See your dealer for more information.
- **Don't water gardens help breed mosquitoes?** Very rarely, and only if there isn't proper planning in the construction. Mosquitoes lay their larvae only in areas of stagnant water. Avoid designing your water garden with any areas that water can just sit. Adding properly sized and placed pumps for circulation is important as well. Also, we strongly encourage all water gardens to have at least a couple of fish for a couple of reasons; one, they help promote the creation of an ecosystem... two, they tend to eat any larvae that may be laid in the water garden... not to mention, they're just plain fun to watch.
- **Do I need a dedicated outlet to run my pump?** We recommend that after the water garden is constructed that you run a dedicated, GFCI protected, outlet as close to the water garden as you can. We do not recommend running a pump using an extension cord.
- **Do I need to add fish?** Fish play a key role in the development and maintenance of an ecosystem, so we recommend that you add some fish. Refer to Aquascape's Hobbyist's Guide to Pond Fish[™] book for more information.
- **Do I need to add plants?** Plants also play a key role in any real ecosystem, and are also helpful in maintaining clear water in your water garden. So, the answer? Yes. Refer to Aquascape's "Hobbyist's Guide to Pond Plants" for more information.

These are just a few of the questions asked, but due to limited space in this brochure, we have to stop here. As mentioned throughout the brochure, we highly recommend you read Aquascape's many informative books that are designed to help you get the most from your pond, while spending as little time as possible worrying about keeping it clean.

Check out these products to help with your installation:



Small Water Features
Installation DVD



MicroPondless[™] Waterfall Kit



MicroPond[®] Kit



UltraKlean[™]
2500 Filter

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

- The Ecosystem Pond book
- www.aquascapeinc.com





Key Questions

Water gardening is hot! Today, more than ever, Americans are discovering the joys of owning a water feature. With the ever growing trend to create outdoor living areas, the water garden has quickly become the focal point of many of those living spaces. People are spending more time near their picturesque water gardens, babbling brooks, cascading waterfalls, colorful fish, and beautiful aquatic and terrestrial foliage...enjoying life in their own backyard paradises. Let's take a look at some of the most common water garden questions being asked by future water garden owners:

- **Can I afford a water garden?** Water gardens come in many shapes and sizes designed to fit just about any budget. Remember, a water garden built right will be low maintenance and beautiful, but it doesn't have to cost a lot.
- **How big should my water garden be?** As big, or small, as you want it to be, but there are two things to remember; (1) - a larger water garden is easier to maintain, and (2) - many water garden owners tell us after they've installed their water features that they wish they had made it bigger.
- **How hard is it to install?** As hard as you, or the ground you're digging in, make it. The water feature itself is easy to install, especially if you use one of Aquascape's MicroPond® Kits. These kits provide all the products, and detailed instructions, to build a beautiful, low maintenance water garden. As an added measure, you can purchase the Small Water Features Installation DVD. Even though water gardens are relatively easy to install, many choose to have their water feature professionally installed. There are hundreds of Certified Aquascape Contractors across the U.S. that will be pleased to offer you an on-site consultation. Check www.aquascapeinc.com to find one near you.

- **I hear water gardens are hard to maintain.** They can be, if not properly built. We've all heard the horror stories where someone dug a hole in the ground, tossed in a liner and pump, then some fish, maybe a plant or two, and hoped for the best. They used chemicals to kill algae, and kept adding those cute fish, unaware that their water garden was totally out of balance and would always be difficult to manage. When we say "ponds built right are beautiful and low maintenance", we mean it. It doesn't take much ... just a little knowledge, and planning. What you want to create is your own little ecosystem. We recommend reading *The Ecosystem Pond* book, by Aquascape, to help you better understand what we mean by this.



- **Where should I put my water feature?** The best answer is; where you will enjoy it the most. Take into consideration your outdoor living space, but don't forget that you can also enjoy the water garden from inside your house as well. Keep both sight and sound into consideration when choosing the space. If you're in the kitchen a lot, then maybe the water garden or waterfall should be near the kitchen window, so that even if you can't see the water garden from the window, you'll be able to hear the water flowing over a falls or down a small stream. Also take into consideration that aquatic plants enjoy lots of sun, so your water garden should be where it can get at least 6 hours of sun each day.

- **Where should I not put my water garden?** Anywhere there is a natural pooling of water after a hard rain. It would be difficult keeping water runoff, which can contain troublesome and sometimes toxic chemicals (even from your neighbors yard), from entering the water garden. Also, try not to place the water garden in a heavily treed area, which could possibly create maintenance challenges due to the leaves, pine needles and animal droppings falling from the trees. And, don't forget, water garden plants love the sun.
- **How much liner should I buy?** We recommend that you dig first and buy the liner second. You may be surprised how big the water garden ends up after you dig the hole... many people are. Once it's dug, use the following formula to calculate how much liner you'll need; Length = 2 x pond depth + Maximum Pond Length + 1 extra foot. Width = 2 x pond depth + Maximum Pond Width + 1 extra foot. With this formula, a 10' x 15' pond that is 2' deep will need a 15' x 20' liner.
- **Do I have to use underlayment?** Can I just use sand or old carpet? Underlayment is highly recommended for rubber lined water gardens in order to help prevent even the smallest puncture caused by sharp pieces of rock under the liner. The problem with sand is that it doesn't cover the sides of the water garden, where there is still plenty of pressure when the water garden is full. The problem with old carpeting is that it doesn't offer good liner puncture protection and it has a tendency to degrade over time, leaving you with smelly, ineffective protection for your liner.
- **How much gravel, stone, and boulders do I need in my water garden?** It depends on whether you're going to "rock in" the entire pond, or just the outer perimeter and top shelves. Refer to *The Ecosystem Pond* book for detailed rock calculations.

