



Optional Winter Pump Care

You can safely run your waterfall over the entire winter, with certain precautions being taken, or you can shut it down and use the pump to maintain the opening we mentioned previously. Leaving the pump running throughout the winter can create outstanding ice sculptures along the stream and waterfall. Take caution, though, in the build-up of ice, which may cause water to channel out of the pond. If this happens, we recommend that you shut down and disconnect the pump and store it for the remainder of the extreme cold season. To protect your pump, store it in a frost-free area and submerged in a bucket of water to keep the seals lubricated. It should be ready to go in the spring. Remember, if you do leave your waterfall running, evaporation will still happen, so you will still need to add water to your pond, even in the winter months.



FALL & WINTER POND PREPARATION PRODUCTS AVAILABLE:



- **AquaForce™ 1000 Solids Handling Pump:** Perfect all season long, but also excellent for use as a winter de-icer, with its flexible extension tube and low maintenance, solids-handling design. Very energy efficient, running on 50 watts.



- **Pond Aerator:** Helps prevent icing-over of your pond in the winter, as well as providing significantly increased levels of oxygen in your pond for healthier fish and better breakdown of organic matter.



- **AquaDeicer™ 200:** Thermostatically controlled de-icer that works only when water temperatures are at 32° or lower. It will efficiently maintain an opening in the ice on your pond all winter, allowing for the escape of harmful gases caused by decaying organic material.



- **AquaClearer Extreme™ Cold Water Bacteria:** Powerful bacteria that works in water temperatures reaching 45° F. allows you to run your pond longer in the fall and winter and start it up sooner in the spring.



- **KoiBalance™ LoTemp™ Fish Food:** It's not just for Koi, goldfish love it too. Designed for easy digestion in cooler water temperatures (50° - 65°). Allows you to enjoy the pleasures of feeding your fish longer into the season.



- **Pond Thermometer:** You just have to have one.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

- Ecosystem Pond Book
- www.aquascapeinc.com



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Fall & Winter Pond Care



What does your pond require to prepare for the cold weather seasons?



Cool Season Care

Just like any other outdoor landscaping, a pond takes a little maintenance here and there. The fall and winter seasons require some special attention that you'll want to make sure you're aware of.

When fall rolls around, you'll need to pay special attention to the clean-up of fallen leaves. When winter approaches, you will need to decide whether to keep your pond running or shut it down. You'll also need to decide how to care for your fish through the cold winter months.

These questions and concerns are answered throughout this brochure, so be sure to read it before making any purchasing decisions.

Dealing with Falling Leaves

Every autumn, falling leaves are inevitable, so it's best to be prepared and minimize the maintenance you'll need to do in the late fall and early spring. If your pond has a skimmer, this will catch a good deal of the leaves, but because of the heavy volume, many will still fall to the bottom of the pond. You may want to cover your pond with Aquascape's pond netting until the bulk of the leaves have fallen. After you remove the netting later in the season, use a net to remove any leaves or debris that may have slipped past the netting. Don't worry about leaving a few leaves behind... they will give frogs and insects a place to hibernate over the winter.

Fall Plant Care

After the first frost, you should stop fertilizing the plants. As leaves and foliage turn yellow and die, remember to cut them back, just as you would your perennials in the garden. Hardy bog and marginal plants should have all of the dead leaves and foliage trimmed down to 2" above water



level, and hardy lily leaves and stems should be cut back, leaving approximately 2-3" at the base of the plant. Tropical plants can be brought inside for winter, or treated as annuals and replaced in the spring.

Fall Fish Care

If you have fish, and you've been feeding them all season, you should start feeding your fish Aquascape's **Koi Balance™ Low Temp™** food when the water temperatures reach 65° F. You should stop feeding them when the water temperatures reach 50° F. They will eventually go into hibernation when the water temperatures reach 40° F.

Winter Fish Care

Your pond should be at least 18" or deeper to over-winter fish. If your climate is cold enough to cause your pond to freeze over in the winter, you should take special precautions to maintain an opening in the ice all winter. One way to do this is with a de-icer, such as Aquascape's **AquaDeicer™ 200**. Controlled by a thermostat, the unit runs only when the water temperature is at or below 32° F, heating only the water around and above it, and then shutting off. This opening allows for gases caused by decaying organic matter to escape all winter long.

Another way to maintain an opening is with your existing pump or Aquascape's **AquaForce™** pump. Just place the pump



close enough to the surface so that the discharge is just slightly below, causing a bubbling effect when running. This will replace the oxygen originally created by your normal water feature, as well as allow the escape of those harmful gases we mentioned previously. If you have a heavy load of fish in your pond (exceeding 10" of fish for every 100 gallons of pond water), you may want to supplement the oxygen levels by adding a 2 or 4 stone Aquascape **Pond Aerator**. These will substantially increase the oxygen levels in your pond, ensuring health, happy fish all winter long.

If the pump isn't enough to maintain an opening in the ice, you will want to add the AquaDeicer 200. To aid in the elimination of the decaying organic matter, as well as helping maintain a healthy pond, you should add Aquascape's **AquaClearer Extreme™ Cold Water** bacteria until the water temperatures reach 45° F.