



Changing the way
the world builds ponds™

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Welcome



Pond Cleanout Checklist

- ✓ Kiddie pool (or similar, large container to hold fish and frogs)
- ✓ 25 feet of 1.5 to 2-inch discharge piping
- ✓ A high-pressure nozzle for your garden hose or a power washer
- ✓ Garden shears for trimming plants.
- ✓ Two-five gallon buckets to collect leaves and debris
- ✓ Wading boots or old clothes you don't mind getting dirty
- ✓ Rubber gloves
- ✓ Bacteria
- ✓ Dechlorinator
- ✓ Extra rocks/pebbles
- ✓ Expanding foam
- ✓ New filter mats
- ✓ Fish net
- ✓ Lily tabs



Pond Cleanout Tips

- When draining your pond, use a sump pump with a screen or your skimmer pump with chicken wire around it, to prevent fish from being sucked into the impeller.
- Use a 1.5 or 2-inch flexible PVC pipe or similar material to discharge the water into the surrounding landscape. Be sure to relocate the pipe several times to allow the water to seep into the ground. (Note: this water is excellent for fertilizing plants.) Don't forget to use some of the pond water to fill the container that will temporarily house the fish.
- When the water level is about 6" deep, unplug the pump and net the fish. Don't waste your time trying to catch the fish when the pond is full. It will create unnecessary stress on you, and them. Once netted, place your fish in the container alongside your pond. Since koi are known to jump, be sure to cover the container if you have them. Frogs or other creatures that you find in your pond can also be placed in the fish container. Once the critters are in the holding tank, begin hosing down the rocks and gravel.
- A high-pressure nozzle on your hose, or a power washer if you have one, should be used to clean the debris off the rocks. Don't scrub all the algae away. Some algae on the rocks will prove beneficial in developing your ecosystem once your pond is filled.
- Use your garden hose to wash the gravel and rinse any debris to the bottom of the pond. There is no need to use a power spray for this. Be sure to keep the pump running while you're doing this. Sediment trapped in the gravel will be channeled to the deepest point of the pond and sucked out by your pump. Start with the top and work your way down to the lowest point of the pond. Once the water runs clear, you're done with the cleaning.
- You are now ready to clean your BIOFALLS® filter, mats, and bags of lava rock. Simply hose these down until they're clear.
- Once the pond is clean, remove the pump from the pond, return it to the skimmer, and hook it up. You can now begin filling the pond.
- Once your pond is half full, you can prepare to reintroduce your fish. If you're on city water, it's important to add Fresh Start to neutralize the chlorine, chloramines, and heavy metals in the water. Introducing your fish without doing this may be harmful to them. Dip a five-gallon bucket into the holding tank, filling it with a few inches of water. Add a fish or two to the bucket and set it in shallow water to acclimate your fish to the temperature of the new pond water.
- After about 15 minutes, splash some pond water into the bucket. By now the temperatures of the pond and the bucket water should be close to the same. You're now ready to spill your fish back into their spring cleaned home. Your cleanout is now complete and your pond is prepared to run on its own for another year!

These and other great tips
courtesy of:

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