



"How To" Series: Diagnosing an Ailing Pond The Checklist

By Rick Smith, EasyPro® Pond Products

What is the Scheduled Treatment Program? Have You Tested the Water?

- How many gallons are in the pond in order to use the proper amount of treatments?
- How often do you add beneficial bacteria? Regular applications maintain higher levels of bacteria.
- Do you apply water conditioner when you add water? Required for both city and well water.
Conditioner: Releases (city) chlorine & chloramines. Neutralizes heavy metals (city & well).
- How often have you been applying an algicide? If every week, there is another underlying problem.
- Have you tested the water quality? Nitrites & ammonia should be zero and the pH between 6.5-8.0.
 - If Nitrites or Ammonia are above zero – perform a 25% water change and retest the water.
 - If pH is not 6.5-8.0 – apply either the EasyPro® pH Up or pH Down.
- Salinity (Salt) should be at no more than .2% – A salinity meter is the only way to test.
 - If salinity is higher than .25% it will cause harm to your fish – do a 25% water change and retest.

Required Filtration (gpm) & Scheduled Care

- How many gallons are in the pond? – So we know how many gpm's are required for proper filtration.
- Does the pond have fish, koi, no fish?
 - No fish, filter once every 2 hours
 - With fish, filter once an hour.
- How many koi? Minimum of 250 gallons per koi with excellent filtration once an hour.
- Do we achieve required gpm after Total Dynamic Head? Static lift – length of run – proper tube size.
- Have the mechanical filter pads been cleaned regularly? Once a week early spring – then as needed.
Mechanical filter pads should be cleaned 3 to 4 days after applying an algicide or clarifier.
- If a pressurized filter – check the "flow rate" to pond requirements. Not the "for ponds up to rate."

Mother Nature Influences

- It takes at least 2 weeks in the spring for the pond to ecologically balance itself.
- Leaves and maple seeds release tannins and turn water tea color, brown or black. - 25% water change.
- Pond needs 25 to 30% plant coverage to block sun, keep pond cooler, and aid in nutrient uptake.
- In ponds 2 feet or less deep, the sun promotes algae growth. Use plants or pond dye to block the sun.
- Use aeration in the hot summer to maintain healthy oxygen levels. Hot water holds less oxygen.
Remove leaves & debris – they increase nutrients for algae, increase toxins, and reduces oxygen levels.

Suggested Action Steps

In most cases, there are four contributing factors to not being able to maintain a pond's eco-balance:
#1: Can't achieve clear water - Review information on ecological pond balance and maintenance steps.
#2: Pond design fails to meet the required flow rates for proper filtration. Review design flow rate.
#3: The demand on the pond's filtration has out grown the original design. Usually increase fish load.
#4: Secure additional information on the impact of Mother Nature and seasonal influences.

Contact your local EasyPro® dealer, distributor, or call EasyPro® at 1-800-448-3873. We can assist you.