

COLD WEATHER

POND CARE CHECKLIST



⚠️ WARNING!

Make sure you remove the net before snowfall! Snow can cause it to sag, trapping debris and ruining water quality—completely defeating the purpose of the net in the first place. For fish ponds, this can lead to deadly gas buildup or dangerous ice breakage that harms hibernating fish.

💡 PRO TIP!

While you don't need to remove your pump for winter, doing so can extend its life. Store it in a bucket of water in a non-freezing spot to avoid seals from dry rotting. Need help? Ask us how our closing services handle this and other essential winter prep steps.

💡 PRO TIP!

Want to save money and keep your pond healthy? A pond thermometer is key! Track weekly readings to adjust treatments at the right time, preventing product waste and keeping your pond thriving. Don't have one? Get a thermometer today, or start using yours regularly to keep your pond in top shape.

SEASONAL ESSENTIALS FOR ALL PONDS

☐ POND NETTING

Using a pond net is an easy way to keep your pond healthy and debris-free this fall. The net prevents leaves from sinking and decaying, which can release harmful gases and harm water quality. Choose a fine mesh to block small debris like pine needles and acorns, and set it up early to keep your pond clean throughout the season.

☐ SPRING & FALL CLEAN

This cold-water bacteria treatment replaces your regular plan when water drops below 55°F, helping prevent harmful gas buildup. While a pond net blocks larger debris, it can't stop everything. After the net is removed for winter, this treatment continues breaking down leftover material to keep your pond healthy. Use it until temperatures drop below 35°F, and restart in spring as the water warms to 55°F. Toss the correct number of packets into the pond or filtration system weekly.

☐ BARLEY EXTRACT

Barley Extract is a natural treatment that maintains water clarity and controls algae growth, providing year-round benefits to your pond. Even in colder months, when other treatments can't be used, it helps balance water quality. Though it works best when water is above 45°F, it remains effective throughout the winter, keeping your pond clear and healthy. Simply add the recommended amount for clearer, healthier water.

FISH SAFETY & SURVIVAL AIDS

☐ SAKANA COOL FISH FOOD

Help your fish bulk up and stay strong by switching from Sakana Warm to Sakana Cool once your pond water is consistently under 65°F. With added vitamins and digestive enzymes, it also supports their immune health through seasonal changes. Stop feeding when water drops to 45°F or your fish slow down. In spring, resume feeding above 45°F to help them regain strength after hibernation and thrive during the seasonal transition.

☐ POND DE-ICER

Vital for fish safety, a pond de-icer keeps a small area free from ice, allowing harmful gases to escape and oxygen to circulate, preventing your fish from suffocating under the ice. Choose a model suited to your pond size, and install it before freezing temperatures arrive. Our recommended model is thermostatically controlled, saving energy by only running when needed—helping you protect your fish and reduce electricity costs.

☐ POND AERATION

Pond aeration is essential for keeping water oxygenated and preventing stagnation, especially in winter when oxygen levels can drop. It helps your deicer by circulating water, preventing harmful gases from building up under the ice. **IMPORTANT:** Place stones halfway down or 2 feet deep for best results. Check and replace stones as needed to ensure your aerator runs efficiently before freezing.

