



## GARDEN EZEE AFTERCARE TIPS ©

### WATER FEATURES

There are many types of water features from small self contained ornamental to large garden ponds and waterfalls. Many are unique and built to our customer specifications. Whichever you choose, pumps, filters, rocks, gravel, plants and fish all need to be balanced and maintained to give your water feature the thriving ecosystem it needs. The following are some suggested tips on maintaining your water feature:

#### GARDEN PONDS

1. Check regularly to make sure pumps and filters are clean and working correctly.
2. Clean out the skimmer net once a week or two.
3. Remove dead flowers, leaves and debris.
4. Use a garden rake to take out Blanketweed, which is a type of algae.
5. Prevent the further spread of algae, either by using prevention controlled chemical products available from garden centres and water gardens, or nature's way by adding oxygenating aquatic plants to absorb minerals and carbon dioxide. Also ensure floating leaves cover more than 50% of the surface to reduce the sunlight which algae depends on.
6. A well planted pond is a haven for tadpoles and wildlife but overgrown plants can choke a pond and cause conservation problems. Remember to periodically divide plants to keep the right balance.
7. In the summer, if water level is low top up your pond with rainwater. Also spraying the surface with a hosepipe on hot evenings will help oxygen levels.
8. In the autumn, use cover netting to protect from falling leaves.
9. In the winter prevent your pond being covered in a blanket of ice, which can cause a build up of methane and be lethal to fish. Float a ball on the surface of the water; or use hot water to melt a hole in the ice; or a pond heater to prevent it from freezing.

#### SELF CONTAINED WATER FEATURES

1. Check manufacturers instructions for care and maintenance.
2. Periodically ensure there is enough water in the basin to properly operate the feature.
3. Unless frost resistant, turn off and drain in the winter months.