



## Fall/ Winter Preparation Checklist

### Early Fall (September)...

- Ensure proper operation of filter(s). If water appears to be moving sluggishly, check filters and clean media as required.

Mechanical/Biological: Clean foam media as required. DO NOT completely 'power wash' any media. This only result in removing all of the beneficial bacteria that has been building up throughout the season. Ensure if the filter utilizes a Ultra-Violet Clarifier (UVC) that the bulb is still operational.

Upland Wetland Filter (Filter Falls utilizing plants): Ensure water movement is not becoming slowed due to excessive plant growth. If the plants are allowed to drastically restrict water movement, it can cause water levels to rise above the filter side walls, resulting in water loss. Cut back/ remove plants as necessary. (This applies to streams and watercourses as well.)

Skimmer: Ensure, as the season progresses, to regularly empty leaf collection basket/net and rinse any filter pads to allow proper water flow to the pump.

- Ensure pump is remaining clean to prevent any wear and tear on the pump. Clean any prefilters as needed.
- Continue with Benekoi™ (beneficial bacteria) treatment following all directions.
- Early in the month feed all of the aquatic plants, using aquatic plant tablets, for the final time this season.
- Cut back any excessive growth of submerged aquatics (oxygenators) and remove water hyacinths and lettuce as required.
- Prune and remove any spent flowers or foliage as required.
- Begin removing any leaves, or debris, that begins to enter the pond using a skimmer net. If your pond uses a skimmer, be sure to empty the collection basket on a regular basis.
- Continue to monitor the quality of the water, making adjustments as required.
- Continue feeding fish, although a switch to an easily digestible food (such as Nobuyuki™ Low Protein food) is recommended.

### Mid-Fall (October)...

- Continue to monitor pumps and filters (and skimmer) for proper operation.
- prune and remove spent flowers and foliage as required.
- Continue to remove leaves and debris from the water. If the pond is located in an area where an excessive amount of leaves accumulate, netting the pond is advised.
- Begin to remove water hyacinths and lettuce.
- Bring inside any tropical plants that will be over-wintered indoors before the first hard frost.
- Continue with Benekoi™ (beneficial bacteria) treatments following all directions.





- Monitor the water temperature to determine when to stop feeding fish for the season. When the water temperature drops below 55 degrees F discontinue feeding fish. Please note: Feeding of fish after the water temperature has dropped below 55 degrees F can result in fish death.

### **Late Fall (November)...**

- Remove or make final adjustments to filters for the winter.  
Mechanical/ Biological: Remove filter (or backwash and drain) for the winter. Completely clean any stored media and filter material. If continuing to operate pump, make appropriate plumbing alterations.  
Upland Wetland Filters (Filter falls): If utilizing plants in the filter, remove all water hyacinth and lettuce. Cut back hardy aquatic plants and drop to deeper water and remove excessive root mass in the filter. If the filter does not utilize plants in the filter, clean all filter media.  
Skimmer: Remove leaf collection basket/net and any filter pads. If shutting down the pond remove the pump and store indoors for the winter. If leaving the pond running for the season, remove float door to prevent any ice build-up at the skimmer face plate opening.
- If using a Ultra-Violet Clarifier (UVC), remove from pond and clean s required. Be sure to store indoors to prevent any damage. If continuing to operate the pump, make appropriate plumbing adjustments.
- Remove and/or ensure clean operation of pumps for the winter.
- Continue to remove leaves and debris from the water.
- Continue with Benekoi™ (beneficial bacteria) treatments following all directions, this will be your final treatment for the season.
- If pond contains fish, add a pond de-icer to maintain a hole in the ice throughout the winter. (This will prevent build-up of toxic ammonia gases which will kill the fish.) Depending on fish population, additional aeration may be required.
- Make any final adjustments, or additions, of underwater lights to maximize your winter enjoyment.

