

PondMate Water Gardens

Some Frequently Asked Questions

1) How much water is in my pond?

To calculate the amount of water a pond holds is a simple process. Measure the length, width and depth of the pond at the longest, widest and deepest points. Multiply each of the measurements which will give you the area in cubic metres which is then multiplied by 1000 to give the number of litres. e.g. a pond measures 2 metres long, 1.2 metres wide and .75 metres deep. $2 \times 1.2 \times .75 \times 1000 = 1800$ litres. This system will almost always give you a quantity greater than the actual volume as the sides of the pond are normally sloping and ponds are not usually a perfect rectangle. It is better to over calculate as the filter will then be more than adequate.

2) Do I need a waterfall?

It's a good idea to have a waterfall for the following reasons: to add oxygen to the water for the benefit of any fish in your pond and the filter, to add character and charm to your pond feature and to enjoy the sound of running water. When building your waterfall you can reuse the soil that came out of the ground from installing your pond.



3) How much water will my waterfall need?

This is like asking "how long is a piece of string?" The amount of water required for a waterfall is determined by the width of the overflow and what each individual desires. Some people want a small trickle and some want "Victoria Falls". The easy way to establish the volume required is to test the waterfall with a garden hose. Turn on the tap and allow the waterfall to start overflowing and then adjust the tap until the flow is how you would like it to be. Without adjusting the tap again take the hose and fill up a 10

litre bucket and time how long it takes. If it took 30 seconds to fill the bucket you had 20 litres per minute over the waterfall.

4) How much water does a fountain head use?

Most fountain heads use between 10 and 20 litres per minute depending on the type. A normal three tier fountain uses about 10 litres per minute.

5) What size pump do I need?

Question 3 and 4 will, in most cases, have given you the answer. If a filter is going to be used you will need to add the required flow for the filter. As a basic rule of thumb a pump should pump the total volume of the pond every two hours. This allows the entire water content of the pond to be circulated 12 times per day. This flow rate is the ideal balance between the needs of plants, fish and the filter in a pond system. Remember to take into account the height of your waterfall as this will affect pump performance.

6) What size hose should I use?

Unless the pump is very small the minimum recommended size is 19mm. If a smaller diameter is used it will restrict and may damage the pump. Even with the smallest of pumps at least 13mm should be used.

7) Do I need a filter?

As a general rule if fish are to be kept in the pond the answer is yes. Not only will the filter help keep the water clear it will also help control any toxins which may be harmful to fish.

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