



**9125 Hwy 71 West
Austin, TX. 78735**
(512) 301-FISH
(3474)

Pond Maintenance Contract

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____ Cell: _____

Although your pond is equipped with an advanced filtration system, it still requires a certain degree of attention and care to continue to appear and function at its best.

In nature, fish live in vast quantities of water. In your pond, hi-tech filtration methods go above and beyond mother nature's abilities to keep such a small body of water clean. There are two aspects to efficient filtration. **Biological filtration** (biofilters) refers to the process by which beneficial bacteria (*nitrobacter* and *nitrosomonas*) convert highly toxic ammonia to slightly less toxic nitrites and finally to relatively harmless nitrates (plant food). These bacteria's are cultivated on high surface area "filter media" within your biofalls. **Mechanical filtration** (skimmers) is basically the removal of debris such as leaves and other garbage that might find their way into the pond. Most manufactures recommend at least annual cleaning of the biofilter. In fact, many ponds with heavy fish loads or excessive debris require more frequent cleaning. On the other hand, lightly stocked ponds with little to no debris, or well maintained ponds might extend the time between cleanings to two or even three years. Regardless of the timing, a clean (not "clogged") biofilter will greatly improve pond water clarity and quality.

Perhaps the most important maintenance task is a weekly clean out of the **skimmer**. This involves emptying the skimmer basket of leaves and other debris, and rinsing the skimmer mat as needed. Keeping the skimmer clean, helps to ensure that your pond stays free of unsightly debris that might otherwise cloud and degrade water quality, and clog up the pump and/or biofilter.

Although your pond will water your **aquatic plants** for you, they still need occasional trimming and other attention. Water lilies and lotus among other fast growing aquatics require repotting just about every year. This will ensure that they have room for new growth, and along with monthly fertilization will keep them looking their best. Dead growth should be removed to prevent it from fouling the pond water. Keeping plants free of dead or dying foliage/flowers will also promote flowering and/or vegetative growth.

Probably the most important aspect of water gardening, **water quality**, is often overlooked. In order to be healthy, a pond must be in ecological balance. This is achieved through biological filtration and lots of plants. Goldfish, koi, and other pond life expel highly toxic ammonia into the water through respiration and excretion of waste. The decomposition of organic matter such as leaves and cedar needles/berries, along with any runoff that might enter the pond, can also contribute to spiking ammonia levels. Testing of your pond water for ammonia, nitrite, and pH levels should be done at least once a month to ensure your water quality never dips to dangerous levels. There are many facets to water quality, if you would like more information, ask to speak to one of our service representatives.

Over time, the buildup of decaying organic matter within the pond, and the natural biological filtration process will create a surplus of nutrients in the pond. While aquatic plants such as water lilies will utilize some of these nutrients, you may experience an algae bloom if steps are not taken to keep water quality optimal. The three types of algae most commonly encountered by pond owners are **string algae** (hair like growth that can grow to enormous size), single **celled algae** (or green water algae – looks like “pea soup”), and **carpet algae** (a thin layer of growth over liner, rocks, plant pots etc.). While a small amount of algae in the pond, especially carpet algae, can be beneficial, in excess it is unsightly and starves other aquatic plants of nutrients. Prodigious algae blooms can also rob the pond of dissolved oxygen at night, which can cause pH swings and seriously upset fish. There are many ways to curb the growth of algae in the pond, and/or keep new growth from forming. Speak with a service representative for more detailed information on combating algae.

We at Native Waterscapes are happy to offer full service maintenance for your pond or water feature.

Spring to Summer months: (March – September)

Pond maintenance is on a Biweekly schedule & will include:

- Thorough cleaning of the skimmer net/basket and mat
- Trimming, fertilization (monthly for lilies and lotus’, every other month for marginals) and clean up of aquatic plants
- Bio-filter check up and cleaning as necessary
- Removal of floating debris from the pond surface
- Water quality test
- Algae treatment
- Bacterial treatment
- All natural mosquito control
- Monitoring of aquatic life for disease and other complications
- ****Additional treatments/procedures on a case by case basis****

Winter months: (October – February)

Pond maintenance will be on a Monthly schedule & will include:

- Thorough cleaning of the skimmer net/basket and mat
- Winterization of aquatic plants
- Bio-filter check up and cleaning as necessary
- Removal of floating debris from the pond surface
- Water quality test
- All natural sludge treatment
- Algae treatment
- Bacterial treatment
- Monitoring of aquatic life for disease and other complications
- ****Additional treatments/procedures on a case by case basis****

Extras as needed:

All extra work that may be needed will be approved by pond owner or not to exceed \$ _____ amount for common light bulbs and new plants.

Full Pond Clean-outs

Even with continued maintenance, occasionally, all ponds should have a full clean out performed. Ponds that have never been fully cleaned before and those with heavy fish loads generally will require annual cleaning, while ponds with light bio-loads, minimal debris, and adequate maintenance can go as long as two years between cleanings. A full cleaning will leave your pond looking as good as the day it was installed, and ensure continued optimal operation of all it's components, your fish will appreciate it as well. **If your pond is littered with leaves, sticks, sludge and, algae, it's likely time for a clean out.** Our full clean out includes catching all pondlife and placing on an aerator, a complete water change, plant pruning/removal, pressure washing of all parts of the system, removal of accumulated muck, silt, and debris, vaccuming of larger debris and leaves, inspection of pond and liner for structural damage and/or leaks, fertilization of all aquatics as needed, deep cleaning of all components of the biological filter, complete clean out of the skimmer and pump intake and manifold, inspection of all parts of aquatic lighting system, restacking of any rocks/cobble that has shifted, addition of a dechlorinating agent, fish culling as needed, addition of beneficial bacteria and enzymes to break down residual and future waste and seed the biological filter, and an inspection of newly cleaned system.

A free consultation will be necessary to determine price, as clean outs vary from case to case.

Pond Rates

Pond Size (gallons)	Established Ponds (1 st Month)	Monthly Maintenance
Up to 2000	\$ 125.00	\$ 75.00
2000 - 4000	\$ 150.00	\$ 100.00
4000 - 6000	\$ 190.00	\$ 140.00
6000 +	By quote only	

Monthly Payment = \$ _____

* **Pay By Check:** Monthly invoices shall be issued on the 1st of the month with payment received by the 15th of each month. Any past due payments over 30 days will accrue late fee charges at + 20 %. All returned checks have a \$ 35.00 fee

* **Pay by Credit Card on File:**

Name on card: _____
Address: _____ Zip: _____
Card Number: _____ Expiration: _____
V Code: _____

Contract Dates:

Pond Contract Start Date Month _____ Year _____
Yearly Cost Good through Month _____ Year _____ then up for renewal.

A Pond Lovers Message,

USA Today July 2002 asked "One thing home owners would add to enhance their homes"
[16% Water Feature / Pond](#) – 16 % Deck – 15 % Pool – 11 % Patio – 10 % Garden – 9 % Porch
Don't Miss the Boat on the Hottest Trend in the **GREEN INDUSTRY!**
"Remember when all else is equal, the price of a home located within 300 feet from a body of water **increases** by up to 27.8 percent."

I hereby authorize the above work to be done, along with necessary materials, tools & equipment knowing this is nothing more than an estimate proposal. An express mechanic's lien is acknowledged on above property to secure the amount of work done thereto. All work is to be completed as estimate is listed and is subject to change depending on any additional work added to contract and actual materials, equipment usage, and labor needed to complete work to both parties satisfaction.

Terms:

Either party may cancel this agreement with 30 days written notice provided all services have been paid in full for all work performed. Cancellation in winter months will be prorated to a per visit cost to date of cancellation.

Final payment due immediately upon completion. delinquency charges, at the maximum monthly rate allowed by law, will apply 15 days after completion. All lawyer, court, & lien fees will be paid by contracting party.

Work Authorized by: Owner/Agent Acceptances, _____ Date: _____

Contractor, _____ Date: _____