



DIY Guide to Spring Koi Pond Cleaning



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Overview

Your pond can be one of the most beautiful parts of your home, with crystal clear water and colorful aquatic plants like green lily pads and pink lotus flowers.

But if you leave your koi pond unattended for too long, it can get mucky:

- Algae takes over the pond
- The water becomes cloudy
- Debris clogs the filters
- Organic matter (muck) gathers on the bottom

All of this can quickly turn your beautiful pond into an eyesore. That's why, once all the snow and ice melts, it's time for a spring pond cleaning!

Cleaning your pond sounds like a tedious and icky process. The good news is - it doesn't have to be one, especially if you follow our simple DIY guide!





Why Clean Your Koi Pond

A dirty koi pond can not only embarrass you by ruining the beauty of your property, it can actually be harmful for your pond ecosystem:

- The cloudy, murky water can make it difficult to see inside
- A dirty pond can prevent your aquatic life from thriving and kill your plants and fish
- Your pond will have an unpleasant odor, which you really don't want to be around

Moreover, neglecting your koi pond can lead to excessive algae, which thrives on the nutrient-rich sludge. While some algae can be good for your pond, too much can make it look ugly and dirty.

The spring season is a great time to restore your pond back to its former glory. After all - what better way to start the new year than with a fresh and beautiful koi pond?



How to Clean Your Koi Pond

There is a great pond cleaning process that even us professional pond people follow. It works so well that we definitely need to share it with you.

Whether you choose to follow this process on your own or have a pro do it for you instead, you are only 8 steps away from a beautifully clean koi pond. But before we get into the details of the steps, let's take a look at all the tools you need to gather.

Tools You'll Need

- 200+ gallon tub for your fish
- Sump pump
- Wet/dry vacuum
- Pressure washer
- Hose and spigot
- Dechlorinator
- Planting supplies:
 - Pot
 - Plant fertilizer
 - Dirt
 - 1-3" gravel



Step 1

Remove Any Fish And Drain Your Koi Pond

What you need to know

While there are certain cleaning methods that allow the pond to still have water in it, we recommend draining the pond so you can do a more detailed clean.

There's a myth that this method can hurt your pond's ecosystem. But if you do it correctly, you have nothing to worry about.

Here's how...

- If you have fish, use the sump pump to drain 1 inch of water
- Put some of the pond water into the tub for the fish (it puts less stress on them)
- Move your fish to the tub
- Finally, drain the rest of the water out



Step 2

Check Your Koi Pond For Problems

What you need to know

Sometimes, small problems can become more recognizable once the water is gone. Draining your pond gives you an excellent opportunity to look for any hidden problems.

It's better to fix these seemingly small issues now rather than let them become major complications later.

Look for...

- Overgrown plants
- Broken materials
- Liner damage
- Non-organic debris
- Shifted rocks



Step 3

Clean The Pond Shelves And Walls

What you need to know

Plant matter and muck, in general, can worm its way between the rocks. It gunks up your pond and makes it look...messy.

It's time to start cleaning!

Here's how...

You can flush that muck out using the sump pump and your pond water. It's both convenient and environmentally friendly.

Now you just have to use the vacuum pump to remove the waste.



Step 4

Power Wash Your Koi Pond

What you need to know

Scale, algae, and debris are still left clinging to your pond. If you don't get rid of it all, it can build up and hurt your pond's look and ecosystem.

Here's how...

Use your pressure washer to get rid of all the unwanted material in your koi pond.

Holding it too close to the rocks can damage them, and destroy the beneficial bacteria and the liner - so take care!

8" or more is enough room to clean the rocks without damaging anything.



Step 5

Care For Any Aquatic Plants

What you need to know

Left unchecked, aquatic plants can be just as bad as algae. They can clog your pond and make it look disorganized and untidy.

This is where you grab your shears and trim back any plants that are overgrowing their area, along with any dead plant matter.

Here's how...

- Put plant fertilizer into a plant pot
- Put in a few inches of dirt
- Cut a bulb from the existing plant
- Plant the bulb
- Cover the bulb with a thin layer of dirt
- Gently pack the dirt so it isn't loose
- Finish it off with a thin layer of gravel



Step 6

Clean The Biofalls And Put It Back Together

What you need to know

Your waterfall, which makes the most relaxing sound, needs cleaning too. That's because it also serves as a filter for your pond's water.

Here's how...

Your biofalls (biological filter waterfall) is made up of 3 parts appearing in this order:

- Bioballs
- Filter mats
- Rack

Take each part out and clean it with the hose and/or sump pump. Then, put it back together in reverse of the above order.



Step 7

Clean The Skimmer Parts

What you need to know

Leaves, plant matter, and debris are all caught by the skimmer (mechanical filter).

This one needs cleaning every so often because it catches larger debris. The filter mats also need cleaning. Notice that a pump is attached to the bottom of the basket.

Here's how...

- Unattach the pump
- Take out the skimmer
- Clean the parts
- Put it back together

That's it! Now you have a clean skimmer.



Step 8

Refill Your Pond And Put In Your Koi Fish

What you need to know

Refill your pond, but don't put the fish in right away! Putting fish in new water immediately can be harmful. It's full of chlorine, fluorine, and other chemicals.

Here's what to do...

Thankfully, you can prepare the water for your fish with a pond detoxifier.

Neutralize those harmful chemicals by adding dechlorinator to the water, and get your fish back home!



Need help with cleaning
your koi pond?

[CLICK HERE!](#)

Or call us: 845-651-4100

Getting Started

A clean koi pond is a happy koi pond - and happy koi ponds have happy owners! You deserve to feel proud of your pond. It should have clear water, beautiful plants, and happy fish.

The good news is, you don't have to do it yourself if you don't want to. Feel free to get in touch if you need professional help!