



Finding a Leak in Your Pond

While some water loss in a water garden is normal due to evaporation, wind, and splash out, significant loss can be a problem. The first, and usually most difficult step in fixing a leak in a pond is actually finding the leak. These steps can help you simplify this tricky task.

Step 1 – Turn off the Pump

Turning off the pump will help you narrow down the source of the water loss. If the water level continues to drop after turning off your pump, skip to Step 4. If the water level stays the same, proceed to Step 2.

Step 2 - Examine the Plumbing

You have eliminated the main pond basin from your search for the leak, and the next possible culprit is the plumbing. Closely and carefully inspect your plumbing, especially at the joints, checking for leakage. If the leak is not in your plumbing, proceed to Step 3.

Step 3 – Examine the Stream and Waterfall

Next, inspect your waterfall and stream for leaks. Often, plant matter or other obstructions will raise the water level and cause water to overflow above your pond liner. Check for obstructions such as settled stones, and ensure your pond liner has not slipped below water level at any points. Wet spots around the perimeter of your pond can provide an idea of where to look closer for the source of the leak. If you still have not found the source of the leak, read Step 4 for more ideas.

Step 4 – Examine the Basin

At this point, you have determined that the leak is in the pond itself. Leave the pump off and allow the pond to continue to leak until it stops. Temporarily remove fish and plants if the leak continues to drop to a water level that is dangerous for them. While the water level drops, check the edges of your pond to make sure the liner has not sunken and rocks have not been displaced. Once the water level stops dropping, closely inspect the liner along this level for any irregularities, from a large gash to a tiny pinprick. For a fast leak, you can spray milk from a squirt bottle into the pond, which will cloud the water and allow you to see the direction of flow towards the hole—this will not work for slower leaks.

Poor Boy's offers everything you need to repair holes, from fish safe patches to waterproof black silicone.

Ask an associate for help finding exactly what you need to return your pond to perfect shape.

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