

# Maintenance

A typical Living Water pond maintenance regime should be less than thirty minutes per week.

## **Daily**

Check the surface skimmer for proper flow. Remove net or basket from the skimmer box to clean out any accumulated leaves and debris.

On systems with a settling tank check the intake screen. Remove leaves or debris.

## **Weekly**

Check the filter pad in skimmer. If water flow is slow, remove and clean the filter pad with a strong water spray from a garden hose.

Briefly open valve on settling tank. This will release the water and heavy sediment collected in the bottom of the cone of the tank into your garden. (This water is the waste water your pond needs to get rid of the most. Waste water is nitrate rich and wonderful for surrounding plants and trees.) The water released during this procedure will be replaced through your automatic fill valve with new water which gives the pond a small water change each week.

You should do a visual check of the pond for any debris on the bottom which has not been pushed to the drain by the water flow. This should be netted out or pushed towards the drain where it can flow into the settling tank. If properly designed you should never have to vacuum a pond.

## **Other Maintenance**

In a Living Water pond, the bio-filter is the heart of your filtration and should be disturbed as little as possible in order to protect the good bacteria colonies. Depending on the capacity of your bio-filter it will require a flush or backwash. This is a simple procedure taking no more than a few minutes. The frequency of the procedure is determined by the total fish load, pond volume, filter capacity, temperature, and feeding schedule. Ideally, the frequency should be every two to three months.