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BASIC POND TERMINOLOGY

Above Ground	Bottom of pond is at ground level or above
Aeration	Agitation or movement of water to increase dissolved oxygen
Algae	Unicellular algae and Spirogyra -filamentous green alga
Alga Bloom	Rapid growth of algae
Balance	Proportionate number of plants to maintain healthy pond water.
Bioload	Decaying plant material, dead algae cells, fish food, fish excrement and all elements that increase nitrites and ammonia.
Bog	A natural occurring, or man made, acidic peat bed which is constantly wet.
Brackish water	Water with high salt levels
Coping	Edging material placed to hide and protect flexible liner or shell.
Dechlorination	Process of neutralizing chlorine, chloramine in treated water.
Dissolved Oxygen	Level of oxygen saturation available in water to sustain pond life.
Dye, colorant	Water additive used to minimize sunlight penetration to decrease algae growth and increase reflective quality.
EPDM liner	Rubber and ethylene-propylene diene monomer
Evaporation	Water loss through evaporation of pond water from surface. Wind; air temperature, humidity all effect evaporation. Evaporation effects volume of water increasing concentrations of toxins and lowers temperature.
Evapotranspiration	Water loss from water surface and the surface of plants in the pond.

Filter media	Plastic discs and balls, foam, volcanic rock and various multi-surfaced items lending to growth of bacteria colonies for biofiltration, or the capture of suspended solids in mechanical filtration.
Filtration	Process of removing suspended solids or converts organic debris and fish waste to less toxic substance.
Filtration, biological	Media with active colonies of nitrifying bacteria, which reduce ammonia, compounds to nitrate.
Filtration, mechanical	contained media, which trap, suspended solids for physical removal.
Filtration, natural	Aquatic plants in ponds which absorb nutrients (phosphorus and nitrogen), collect silt and provide food to pond life.
Filtration, vegetable	Placement of select plants in a container, small pond or waterway prior to flowing into pond.
Flexible Liners	Various materials pliable enough to allow custom pond shaping.
GFI, GFCI	Electric safety device that interrupts electrical flow to pump or other submersed device in the event of a malfunction.
HPDE liner	High density polyethylene
Hypalon®	A chlorosulfonated polyethylene (CSPE) synthetic rubber.
In-Ground	Top of pond is level with ground surface.
LDPE	Low Density Polyethylene
Marginal area	Outer edge of a pond, with varying water depths, generally less than 2 feet.
Nitrate	Less toxic by product of nitrification, provides nutrients to plants.
Nitrite	Toxic byproduct of fish excrement, decaying organic material.
Permalon®	12-ply cross grain polyethylene laminate
PH reading	Measurement of alkalinity (8-14) or acidity (1-6), neutral being 7.
Pond aesthetics	Includes style, shape, size, in preparation to surroundings
Pond recirculation	A pond's entire volume should be turned over once every two-six hours. Maximum turn over should not exceed once per hour.
Pond shelves	A design element of excavation leaving an earthen shelf. Many preformed shells make this provision.
Pond style	Formal, casual or informal, natural, oriental or any other theme.

Pond volume	Total gallons of water in a pond. Length x width x depth x 7.5. (Example: 5’ x 8’ x 2’ = 80 cu. ft x 7.5 = 600 gallons)
Pre-formed shell liner	High density polyethylene and fiberglass made in a predesigned shape.
Pump	Mechanical device to move water. Above ground, in line or submersible.
Pump Lift	Gallons of water (per hour) a pump will move based on the vertical distance in feet from the pump to the discharge height. Each 10 feet of horizontal distance equals one vertical foot.
PVC (fish grade)	Polyvinyl chloride
Sediment	Decaying plant material, solid organic matter, silt and rock which settle to the pond bottom.
Tannic water	Water the color of weak tea, caused by organic matter.
Transitional zone	Area bordering pond planted to provide natural appearance.
UV Sterilizer	Passing of water by an ultra-violet light that kills alga cells and some bacteria and parasites. Increases bioload.