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ROCK AROUND THE BLOCK

Pond Care Products

Setting up a new pond

The early days of a pond's life are very important. You must effectively convert a sterile hole in the ground into a healthy thriving oasis for aquatic wildlife. Simply follow these guidelines.

1. Most ponds will be filled using tap water which contains harmful chlorine and heavy metals from pipework. Adding Interpet Fresh Start conditions the tap water, removing these unwanted compounds. Fresh Start works instantly so initial livestock can be added straight away.
2. Check the pH of the tapwater with an easy to use Interpet Pond Check kit. The safe range for pond wildlife is between 6.5 and 8.5 with 7.5 being the ideal.
3. Add Interpet Bio-Start, a bacteria culture, to start up the pond's essential biological cycles, and assist your Hozelock Cyprio Bioforce filter to work more effectively. Each sachet contains 8500 million bacteria to start the pond's nitrogen cycle.
4. Follow your Hozelock Cyprio Bioforce (or other pond filter) manual for recommendations about maximum fish and plant stocking of your pond.

Green Water Algae - "Pea Soup"

Green water algae are simply single celled plants that rapidly multiply when suitable conditions prevail. Algae will flourish when there are excess plant nutrients in the water (eg nitrate and phosphate with excess sunlight to fuel their photosynthesis). As well as being unsightly, this algae can cause potentially lethal rapid changes in pH and oxygen levels. The algae must be controlled and there are several ways of doing this.

1. The Natural Way
 - Keep levels of nitrate under 50mg per litre using a [biological filter](#).
 - Stock the pond with plants with at least 2/3 coverage to use up nutrients and sunlight. We recommend you buy waterplants from [Wallis Creek Watergarden – http://www.walliscreekwatergarden.com.au](http://www.walliscreekwatergarden.com.au)
2. [Ultra Violet Clarifiers \(UVCs\)](#) and [filters with integrated UVCs](#)
 - In some ponds it's impossible to create a natural balance. The pond may be in direct sunlight for too much of the day or large fish may make having sufficient plants impossible. In these circumstances the most efficient way of resolving green water problems is to use a [Hozelock Cyprio Vorton UVC](#) or [Hozelock Cyprio Bioforce UVC Filter](#) or [Jebao PF series filter](#) in conjunction with your pump. The pond water is pumped past the ultra violet light source, which clumps the algae together, which are then settle to the bottom of your pond.
3. Use [Interpet Sludge Buster](#)
 - After resolving any algae problems, add [Interpet Sludge Buster](#). This will safely break down the dead algae in your pond without deoxygenating the water.
4. [Use Interpet Green Away](#)
 - Flocculates (clumps) algae together, much the same way a UVC does, so they sink to the bottom or are trapped in a filter.
 - **NOT an algicide** so will not harm other pond plants
 - Safe, natural ingredient as used in drinking water reservoirs
5. UV Lamp / Bulb Maintenance
 - The lamp in your UVC has a limited life. The PL-S TUV Lamps (two pins at one end) have an effective life of one year and should be replaced accordingly - [have a look here](#). Each lamp has a protective sleeve made of very fragile quartz glass. These sleeves need to be kept free of organic debris and limescale if they are to function properly. Make periodical checks to ensure the sleeve is clean.

Water Features

Self contained waterfeatures are an ideal addition to a small garden where room for a pond is limited. They add the movement and sound of running water that enchances any garden. Waterfeatures create their own maintenance problems. The pump must be cared for in the same way as a pond pump. The water in a feature can become stagnant if the feature isn't run for a while. This can be solved by using [Interpet Feature Clear](#)

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