FISH POND

INSTRUCTIONS

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Floatron can be used successfully in many non swimming pool situations to keep your water clear and healthy. Algae control has proven to be a real problem for applications with fish in the water. Accordingly, use of algaecides, chemicals, etc are not desirable and will often result in a fish kill. This leaves floatron as a unique solution, able to do the job, and in a simple, non toxic, and cost effective way.

The primary idea of the floatron is to mineralize the water with beneficial minerals which are inhospitable to microorganisms but of no consequence to the larger plants of the fish. Aeration of some sort remains a necessity, as the fish must have oxygenated water to breathe.

IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT THESE POND INSTRUCTIONS ARE FOLLOWED OR THERE COULD BE A RISK TO YOUR FISH!

Typical means to keep ponds from stagnating or turning green are:

1	Adding copper sulphate to the water, this is too much, too fast and not a nice chemistry in ingest. Also you add a lot of sulphur with the copper, and that's not good either – kills everything in sight including the fish. Not too expensive to buy, unless purchasing this chemistry with a fancy name on the bottle.
2	Aeration is good, but usually localized to a small area of the pond, leaving most of the water unaffected. Typical systems emit air bubbles from the bottom, which simply rise to the surface. Without correct water motion, not much oxygen is picked up by the water during the bubbles short trip to the top – but its better than nothing.
3	Ultrasonic frequency broadcast within the body of water can affect and control algae growth, but one wonders what effect that frequency range has on fish and the systems are not cheap. Oxygenation still needs to happen to aid the fish.
4	Staw bales placed in the pond can help, and need changing every so often. Fairly heavy and bulky a natural approach to water maintenance, not always 'strong enough' for some situations.
5	Fountains are good, as they help aerate, but the water should be additionally pumped/ moved to get the oxygen around – a tough situation. Algae blooms are not normally halted by a fountain's activity; the resultant water movement from a fountain is just about , the pump does itself i.e. circulates from where it falls to the pump intake. The rest of the pond stays still.

6	**Changing the water out every so often, and cleaning out the water feature can work, but is labour intensive and not fun. The fish have to accommodate to the new water ech time also. By doing this algae will still come back every time.**
7	**Live bacterial filters can be effective, although their forte is hust that – bacteria, algae can and will still grow in the body of water. Still need oxygenation and water movement.**
8	**Phosphates…. real food for algae. Gets into your water by way of rain, dust, runoff, leave, uneaten fish food, you name it. Phosphates can be removed with a good 'phosphate re-mover' (chemical); once down to trace amount, the algae will not have much to feed on. Removing phosphates in con-junction with mineralized (floatronized) water is a good combination.**
9	**UV filter systems are excellent at killing the algae, but leave the cleaned algae free water vulnerable to another algae attack. UV systems are not able to deal with blanket weed as it attached to the pool edge so cannot pass through the filter. By using floatron alongside UV systems, blanket weed will not grow and the mineralized water, will not be subject to repeated algae growth.**

The floatron can help in virtually all of the above situations (except #1). All ponds , need to have oxygenation, and water flowing and recirculation (floatron will not work in ponds which have an inflow and outflow). In addition to these basics, the water should ne mineralized just enough to control the algae growth. This is best done with the floatron.

Specific Pond instructions:

Because the floatron is a trickle charger, instant results should not be expected. As with any sizeable body of water, quick and fast changes are to be avoided; slow, deliberate and longer lasting changes will prove to by advantageous and result in higher quality over the long term. The floatron can do an outstanding job, but you must allow it time to do it.

A few basic requirements must be met in order to use the floatron:

a	The body of the water must have a recirculating pump system.
b	The water must be captive, i.e. no inflow or outflow of new water.
c	Total capacity should be approx 25,000 imperial gallons (113,000 litres) or less.
d	Sunlight must directly illuminate the solar panel.

i	If possible start with a cleaned out enclosure, with new water. It is better to prevent algae than to eliminate existing algae.
ii	Float the unit in sunlight, preferable near the pump inlet or outlet. Tether as necessary. This will ensure adequate mineral ion mixing with the complete water volume.
iii	Initially, float the unit constantly, and clean the electrodes once a week. (Simple, quick, procedure described in the operating instructions)

iv	Use of the screen is not recommended in ponds - simply use the screw and washer (if available) to separate the sping electrode form the mineral electrode.
v	When the algae begins to die off and turn brown, remove the floatron if the water is clear enough, the ion test kit which compares colours should be used to establish an ion level of 0.2 - 0.3ppm approx. (Koi and other fish remain healthy in ion levels up to at least 0.3ppm - do not exceed this level!) If starting with new water and without existing algae, use the test kit to determine ion level and floating time. Do not over ionize!
vi	Keep the floatron out of the water until algae appears to regain growth. At that point refloat the unit until brown/ dead algae reappears (in some ponds it may be necessary to continually float the unit)
vii	The objective is to float the unit as little as possible to achieve the desired results. Not that large bodies of water will require up to full time floatring, while smaller systems will suffice with part time. Environmental factors such as cloudiness, rain, temperature etc will affect floating time.
viii	If some algae is preferred instead of complete obliteration, float just enough to maintain the desired balance.
ix	Sometimes algae and blanketweed in ponds are too much of a challenge for floatron or any other system alone, therefore the best solution seems to be using a floatron alongside a UV Filter. The UV filter will kill the existing algae and the floatron will mineralise the water preventing new growth.
x	Phosphates can cause real problems, they get into your water by way of rain, dust, runoff, leaves, uneaten fish food, you name it. Phosphates can be removed with a good ‘phosphate remover' (chemical); once down to trace amount, the algae will not have much to feed on. Removing phosphates in conjunction with mineralized (floatronized) water is a good combination.
xi	Total pond capacity should be approx 20,000 Gallons (91 cubic metres) of less
xii	For an initial control of an infested pool, we recommend Tetra Pond AlgoRem (customers report that it really does work overnight and then floatron keeps to pond clear)

USE OF SCREEN IS NOT RECOMMENDED IN PONDS

DO NOT GO AWAY FOR A LONG PERIOD OF TIME AND LEAVE THE FLOATRON IN YOUR POND WITHOUT IT BEING MONITORED!

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