



All about

# Koi Ponds

---

A complimentary eBook from CheapPetStore.com

---

Our prices say it all. Our Pet Library makes it better.



# Koi Ponds

## Introduction

A koi is a Japanese fish that is a distant cousin to the goldfish. The average koi grows 2–4 inches each year and reach an average length of 24-26 inches at maturity.

Due to the enormous size of this fish, a suitable environment has to be created. The brightly colored koi gracefully swimming in clear water and the soothing sound of a waterfall creates a sense of serenity for the onlooker. An ideal koi pond creates this type of environment by providing an enclosed biological filtration system that provides a healthy environment and clear water without mechanical, filtration or chemicals intervention. These ponds are an excellent addition to the landscape of the yard and have over the years grown in popularity.

## General Description

An ordinary backyard pond does not compare to the koi ponds that are seen in Japanese gardens. These ponds are carefully crafted and engineered. One big factor is that aesthetics plays an extremely large role in the appearance and beauty of the pond. The shape, position, edging materials, and construction are finely tuned to the desired scenic effect of the pond. The edging technique may vary from the standard gogan pattern to the use of large boulders. Most Japanese water gardens include at least a few large rocks along the waterline. These boulders can weigh as much as a ton and require special engineering systems that maybe hidden from normal view. The koi pond drains from the bottom and has a filter that can handle large amounts of waste that is produced by the koi. Another feature includes an aeration system and pumps to recirculate the pond water.

## Constructing Your Pond

Most people do not realize that building a koi pond is more complicated than it appears. Unless the pond is carefully planned, the end result could be a great disappointment. Before considering constructing a koi pond, you will need to consider the size of the fish, environmental factors, water quality, and the fish's ability to breed. All of these factors mean that the pond environment will be a significant investment.

## Type of Pond

There are different types of koi ponds that may include a concrete or a rubber liner pond. The concrete pond is more permanent, but limits the ability to make changes after construction. Concrete ponds may vary in shape, and can be molded to be smooth or even. One of the disadvantages of using the concrete pond is that the pH level tends to be higher than ideal for the first three years. This problem can be corrected during construction by allowing the concrete to cure, and by coating the pond surface up to the water line with a rubber base or epoxy.



- [Accessories for Your Koi Pond](#)
- [Test Kits for Your Koi Pond](#)



 [Send this eBook to a Friend](#)

## Type of Pond (continued)

The rubber liner pond, which is not permanent, in actuality, may be more beneficial. If there are problems during the design and construction phase, the rubber liner pond may be easier to work with. These ponds have one advantage in that it maintains a more neutral pH level and creates a very soft surface for the koi. Issues such as the rubber liner showing through the rockwork can easily be resolved by cutting holes for drainage. Extending the rockwork into the water and installing proper drains and bulkhead fittings will result in a leak-free liner pond for many years.

## Size of Pond

The most common mistake when constructing a koi pond is that they build it too small. Due to the large size of the koi fish, the smallest size recommended should be at least 1,500 gallons, measuring approximately 7 feet wide by 8 feet long and 4 feet deep. Current owners of koi ponds would probably tell you that you would not be happy with a smaller size. If you design a larger pond, the largest size recommended should be able to house 15,000 gallons, measuring approximately 17 feet wide by 21 feet long and 6 feet deep. With larger ponds, keep in mind catching fish is more difficult and they are also more expensive to maintain. The filtration rate will increase to at least every three hours and the size of the pump has to be large enough to accommodate for the size. Bigger is not always better because if you build the pond too large, you may not enjoy the beauty of koi.

## Location of Pond

It is very important to consider the location of a koi pond due to the fact that they are better suited in shaded areas than in direct sunlight. Due to the effects of sunlight on the growth rate of algae, constructing the pond in a shaded area will slow the down this growth. During the design of the pond, an arbor should be included initially or in future planning to provide some type of shade. Local building codes may require a permit for any pond that is constructed deeper than two feet and may require the construction of a fence for safety. This pond needs to be located in an area that provides a safe environment for the koi and not easily accessible to predators.

## Construction Materials

During the construction of the koi pond, you will need the following materials: shovel, pond liner, flag or slate stones, cement, pump, and a filtration system. In order to finish the pond, you will need a de-chlorinator and plants such as bamboo, palms and grass. You may want to use water plants such as water hyacinth, water lilies, frog bites, water lettuce or bog plant such as papyrus. No koi pond would be appropriate without the traditional Japanese decorations.

## Pond Care

Pond care is very important in order to ensure the beauty of the environment and the health of the koi fish. Algae and bacteria can become uncontrollable and promote disease if the pond is not maintained. Koi are very sensitive to water changes and proper steps must be taken when caring for your pond.



You'll need these basics for your Koi Pond. Click the items below to go to CheapPetStore.com to find the best prices for online pet supplies.

- [Chlorine Neutralizer](#)
- [Skimmer](#)
- [Pump](#)
- [UV Clarifier](#)
- [Pond Algae Controllers](#)



[Floating Food Sticks](#)

## Pond Cleaning

Pond cleaning is usually done when the pond experiences uncontrollable algae blooms, disease and the size and population of the koi is effecting the environment. When cleaning or changing the pond, remember that koi are very sensitive to water changes and must be physically removed from the pond and relocated in a temporary location to prevent shock or death. Create the temporary environment with a filter and aerator. Make sure that you cure the water with chlorine and chloramines remover, and check the temperature before placing the fish in the temporary location. Monitor the koi when water changes have been made because they may jump out of their pond. Make sure that you do not change the water in the pond too often. It is also recommended that every two or three years, koi ponds should be cleaned.



## Pond Maintenance

When constructing a koi pond, make sure to know the location of the nearest service area. If maintenance is needed after initial construction, dealers may be limited to their own local service area. Koi pond maintenance should include testing every month. When you notice something out of the ordinary that may not be due to seasonal changes, it would be wise to perform additional testing. Testing daily when starting your pond would ensure your awareness of any changes in conditions. After your initial testing period, you may be able to lengthen your testing intervals. Preventive measures on the filters and pumps should be monitored due to the possibility of jamming by algae. Algae can affect the appearance and odor of the pond; and deplete the oxygen for the fish. Keep your pond free from debris and maintain the pH level around 7.5. Koi fish cannot survive when the biological filters have ceased to remove the ammonia from the water.

## Pond Accessories

Beginners constructing a koi pond may overlook jets as a necessary item for their ponds. Because koi love to swim, jets provide exercise for them. Jets that are installed at the right location and depth can be used to direct leaves toward skimmers, making the skimmer work more efficiently. Finally, jets provide an increase of oxygen level in the pond. A skimmer makes it easier to dispose of leaves and debris that are collected in the pond' net.

An auto-fill is one accessory that is definitely a necessity. It will automatically keep the pond water at a constant level at all times. When the water dissipates, the auto-fill will refill the pond and will limit the use of the water hose.

The use of ultraviolet lighting in ponds is intended to kill any algae floating in the water. When algae are left unchecked, algae blooms can turn a beautiful clear pond into pea soup. As the ultraviolet light passes through the water, the energy of the light destroys the DNA in the algae and eventually makes it easier for the algae to be filtered out in the water.

Can't miss gifts for the Koi Pond owner:

- [Pond Fountain](#)
- [Pond Spillway](#)
- [Pond Parasite Treatment](#)



[Koi Book](#)

 [Send this eBook to a Friend](#)