

how to use this book

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*Employees pose in front of Aqualand, Aquascape's
main headquarters in St. Charles, IL*



I'm a pond builder with a crew who builds beautiful and natural looking, organic ponds on a regular basis, just like you. I've overseen the writing and production of every sentence in this book, so I can be sure that the information we present is practical, user-friendly, and easy enough for me to use. By keeping it practical and user-friendly enough for me, I'm certain it will be the same for you.

With that thought in mind, I want to tell you how I would use this book if I were in your boots. I want to tell you how it's organized, and why we organized it the way we did. I want you to know the specific applications that we had in mind when we wrote it. In order to get you started on the right foot, turn the page and take a look at how I see it...



Encyclopedia-Like

First of all, this book, from its inception, was intended to be an encyclopedia-like, “everything you ever wanted to know about pond building, but were afraid to ask,” kind of reference book. If it pertains to pond building, we aim to address it in this book.



This book will take you by the hand to help you select everything from the right rock for the jobs to the best plants needed to finish it off, and everything in between!



It's easy to identify where you are, or need to go in this book. Just look for the color-coded chapter edges along with the descriptive text.

A Picture Is Worth a Thousand Words

You'll notice that we've taken the old saying, “a picture is worth a thousand words” seriously. By including lots of how-to photos, we've tried to minimize the time that you spend digging your way through text, and maximize the access you have to this practical, hands-on, visibly accessible information.

Difficult concepts and tricky methods are best explained with photos, and we have given you lots of them. We leave no rock unturned or query unanswered with all these helpful images!



Chapter Layout

Each chapter starts out with a short story, an anecdote that exemplifies a problem that's related to the subject of that particular chapter. We've called this section "Tales From The Field." In most chapters you'll also find a section called "Construction Guidelines." This section highlights the hands-on and how-to information so it's easy to find.

esp Much of this information is also offered in Spanish! These sections are denoted by the symbol to the left, and are in italics and color.



TIP from TEAM AQUASCAPE



Chapter Order

With regard to the order of the chapters, we start out by giving you a little history of pond building, how the industry started, and how it has evolved to where it is today. We then get into the elements of a balanced ecosystem—ecology, aquatic plants, and fish. Moving on a little further, we discuss all the tools you'll need to build a pond—filtration, liner and underlayment, pumps and electricity, and plumbing. In the design and build section, we cover the finer points of pond building including design, excavation, rocks and gravel, waterfall and stream construction, edge treatment, large scale projects, and constructed wetlands. The final section covers all of the maintenance topics, such as spring cleanouts, leaks, winterizing, and algae.



Look for the "construction tape" headers for helpful step-by-step how to's!

Tips From the Pros

In "Tip From Team Aquascape" we share the helpful hints, tips, and shortcuts that we've learned in the field over the years. You'll also find the conventional sidebars and pull-outs that you'd see in any good, user-friendly manual on the market today. It's easy to use, tried and tested information that you and your company can use in the office or take out in the field.

Sidebars and pull-outs help denote interesting facts or other helpful information. Also look for the "Tip from Team Aquascape" icon for advice from our in-the-field experts!

1	History of Ponds
2	Ecology
3	Aquatic Plants
4	Fish
5	Filtration
6	Liner & Underlayment
7	Pumps & Electricity
8	Plumbing
9	Design
10	Excavation
11	Rock
12	Waterfalls & Streams
13	Edge Treatment
14	The Pondless™ Waterfalls
15	Small Ponds, Big Profits
16	Large Scale Projects
17	Constructed Wetlands
18	Maintenance



Now, Exactly How Do You Use This Book?

First and foremost, this book is intended to supplement, and to be used in conjunction with, many of the other educational products you can get from us, including classes and seminars, DVDs, magazines, product brochures, and more.

So, if you've had a chance to attend a Build-A-Pond Day or any of our seminars, this book will allow you to listen closely and minimize the number of notes you need to take, because the information we're presenting is in the book too. Or, if you have our videotape series, and you use it to introduce pond building to your crew members, the *Pond Builder's Bible* will serve as an excellent reference for your crew members right in the field. So, for starters, you should see this book as a complement to the other Aquascape materials you currently have in hand.

A Training Manual

When you're planning to teach new employees how to build a pond the right way, or how to accurately answer questions, the *Pond Builders Bible* can serve as an excellent curriculum guide. It's good, colorful, and informative reading, so you can build discussion sessions around particular sections.

Feel free to copy specific pages or chapters, and use them as handouts. If you have several copies on hand, you can assign chapters to certain individuals and give tests based on its content. It's one of those reference books that will have you and your crew members learning every time it's opened. Remember, as The Pond Guy™ always says, "When you stop learning, you stop earning."

We've taken some of the most pertinent information and translated it to Spanish so it's easily accessible to Hispanic folks who may be working for you. They're a critical part of Team Aquascape and we do our utmost to make sure they know it. We presume you'll feel similarly.

An in the Field Reference Book

Using the table of contents, you can quickly look up any one of the many subjects covered in this book, get a written explanation, and probably a photo or two of what you're looking to get a handle on. So don't think you have to leave this baby back in the shop when you head for the job site. Bring it with, and pull it out when you have a question. It'll save you time, money, and headaches all at the same time.

Let's Get on the Same Page

Finally, this book will save you time and money because, in most instances, it will take the place of the phone call that you'd normally have to make to our technical department in order to get your question answered. Yes, in all honesty, all the answers are in this book...everything we'd ever tell you on the phone. By the same token, there will still be interpretation issues that will require you to pick up the phone and make a call. The good news is that our technical service team will still be there waiting for your call, as always.

But wait, the other good news is...when you do have to call and ask that question, instead of having to fax your written materials, take up a lot of time on the phone, and still wonder whether or not we're on the same page, you can just pull out your copy of the *Pond Builder's Bible*, turn to the page we're on, and we'll literally "be on the same page." That should save both of us time, energy, and money. Now, dig into this book and give us any feedback that you have. We always love to hear what our valued customers out there in the pondering foxholes think of our work!



Yes, in all honesty, all the answers are in this book... everything we'd ever tell you on the phone. The good news is, our technical service agents will still be there waiting for your call, as always.



Small projects or large, this book will walk you through, step-by-step from design to excavation, plumbing to pumps, rocks to plants. All the answers are here. All you need to add is your imagination!

