ESTIMATING WATER VOLUME IN GALLONS

Knowing the amount of water in your water feature helps in determining the correct pond pump, pond filter, fish quantities and water treatments you will need for your koi pond or water garden.

Formula for determining water volume for a rectangular pond:

\[ \text{Width} \times \text{Length} \times \text{Depth} = \text{Cubic Feet} \]
\[ \text{Cubic Feet} \times 7.5 = \text{Gallons} \]

**EXAMPLE:** Your pond is 10' wide, 12' long and 2' deep at the deepest point. Let's place these numbers into the formula.

\[ 10 \times 12 \times 2 = 240 \text{ cubic feet} \]

\[ 240 \times 7.5 = 1800 \text{ Gallons} \]

Your pond holds roughly 1800 gallons of water. You can also use this formula when determining the size of the reservoir for a pondless waterfall.

HOW MUCH LINER DO YOU NEED?

Sometimes figuring out how much liner you need can be pretty complicated. Use this formula to determine the amount of liner you will need for your water feature. Always allow an extra 1.5' of overlap around the pond's perimeter. Include 3' in length & width.

Formula for determining the liner length:

\[ \text{Max Length} + \text{Twice the Depth} + 3 = \text{Liner Length} \]

**EXAMPLE:** Your pond is 12' long, 10' wide and 2' deep at the deepest point. Let's place these numbers into the formula.

\[ 12' + 2'(2) + 3' = 19' \]

Your liner needs to be 19' long x 17' wide. You can also use this formula when determining the size liner for the reservoir of a pondless waterfall.

DECIDING THE WATERFALL FLOW RATE

The waterfall flow rate is how much water is flowing over a waterfall or stream to achieve the desired affect. The more water that flows over the waterfall the louder the sound of running water will be.

- Light Flow = 100 gallons per hour (gph) per inch of spillway
- Medium Flow = 150 gph per inch of spillway
- High Flow = 200 gph per inch of spillway

Width of Spillway x Desired Flow Rate = Total GPH

**EXAMPLE:** You want your waterfall to have a 24” spillway

Light Flow ........... 24” Spillway x 100 gph = 2,400 gph
Medium Flow ....... 24” Spillway x 150 gph = 3,600 gph
Heavy Flow ......... 24” Spillway x 200 gph = 4,800 gph

You will need a pump that will be able to pump this much water at the height of the waterfall after it overcomes the head pressure.

SIZING A PUMP FOR YOUR WATERFALL

To determine the size pump you will need for your waterfall, you will need to know the waterfall flow rate, the length of tubing, the height of the waterfall, and the number of elbow & T fittings used.

Total Head Pressure = Waterfall Height + 1’ of head per 10’ of hose + fittings

**EXAMPLE:** Your waterfall is 24” wide and requires 3,600 gph and is 4’ above ground level and has 10’ of tubing and 2 elbow fittings.

4’ high + 1’ for tubing + 2’ for fittings = 7’ of head

You will need a pump that provides 3,600 gph at 7’ of head to achieve the desired effect of the waterfall or stream.

GET THE RIGHT SIZE TUBING

Only a certain amount of water can physically fit through any diameter of tubing. Despite the dimensions of the pumps discharge, tubing must be sized based on the amount of water required.

Tubing Size | 1/2” | 3/4” | 1” | 1-1/4” | 1-1/2” | 2” | 2-1/2” | 3” | 4”
--- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | ---
Max Flow | 300 | 720 | 1,200 | 3,000 | 4,800 | 6,000 | 9,000 | 12,000

SIZING YOUR STREAM OR WATERFALL RESERVOIR

A good rule of thumb for waterfall reservoirs is to make the reservoir 3 times the volume of the total water in the stream or waterfall.

**EXAMPLE:** Your stream is 3’ wide and 20’ long and has an average depth of 3’. Use the water volume formula to get the total water volume of the stream and waterfall.

\[ 3’ \times 20’ \times 2’ = 112.5 \text{ gal} \]

Your stream or waterfall basin will need to hold 337.5 gal. of water.
**Components of a Waterfall/Stream**

1. **Waterfall Filter or Weir** - Diffuses the water for a smooth flow.
2. **Tubing** - Allows water to flow from the pump to the Waterfall Filter.
3. **Liner Underlay** - Protects liner from items that could damage the liner.
4. **Pond Liner** - Allows water to flow without soaking into the ground and keeps dirt from mixing with water.
5. **EcoBlox** - Used to open up the waterfall basin so less rocks are used. Each EcoBlox has a 31.5 gallon capacity.
6. **Pump Vault** - Used to keep debris from reaching the waterfall pump. Also allows easy access to the waterfall pump.
7. **Waterfall Reservoir** - Stores the water that is pumped to the top of the waterfall.
8. **Fieldstone** - Used to create small waterfalls and focal points within the waterfall. It’s also used to fill in the waterfall reservoir.
9. **Cobblestone** - Used to hide the liner in the streambed and the large stones in the waterfall reservoir.
10. **Berm** - mound using rocks, blocks, and dirt. This is used to raise the waterfall filter or weir from ground level causing a slope for the water to run down.

Some General Rules for Waterfalls:

A 1/2” deep water flow at the weir (the part the water falls off of) requires 100 gallons per hour (gph) per inch of width. Most residential disappearing waterfalls are twice that.

To determine pump flow at the falls, refer to the manufacturer’s pump chart. Head pressure may be calculated using 1 foot of pressure for each foot of height above water level and 1 foot of pressure for each 10 foot of tubing after the first 10 foot.

**Notes:**

- Components of a waterfall/stream
- Pond Liner - Allows water to flow without soaking into the ground and keeps dirt from mixing with water.
- EcoBlox - Used to open up the waterfall basin so less rocks are used. Each EcoBlox has a 31.5 gallon capacity.
- Pump Vault - Used to keep debris from reaching the waterfall pump. Also allows easy access to the waterfall pump.
- Waterfall Pump - Circulates water from the bottom of the waterfall basin to the waterfall filter.
- Waterfall Reservoir - Stores the water that is pumped to the top of the waterfall.
- Cobblestone - Used to hide the liner in the streambed and the large stones in the waterfall reservoir.
- Fieldstone - Used to create small waterfalls and focal points within the waterfall. It’s also used to fill in the waterfall reservoir.

(405) 273-8363
7901 N. Kickapoo • Shawnee, OK 74804
www.pondproshop.com