

## Troubleshooting Leaks

You may not realize how much water can evaporate from a pond during the dog days of summer. On a hot summer day in Wisconsin an 11'x16' pond can lose as much as 2 inches of water in one week.

Another common problem with water loss is the wind. If you have higher drop waterfalls there is a good possibility that strong winds can be blowing the water right out of your stream before it even gets to the pond. The more splashing and series of large waterfalls you have in your stream can cause more water loss that would be expected.

99% of leaks are NOT due to a hole in the liner, rather water running over the edge of liner in the stream or pond.

Do not try to investigate a leak if the ground is wet from a rainfall or recently after an irrigation system has run.

**STEP 1:** The most common leak is water running over the liner. Look around the stream and waterfall for areas that have settled. Look for wet mulch or wet gravel along the edge. Sometimes it is necessary to inspect the areas under the mulch, as I have seen the water run down a fold in the liner and never leave a trace on the surface. If you have recently done some planting or walking around the edge of the liner you may have accidentally stepped down part of the liner causing water to leak out in the low spot.

Solution: How to fix a low liner edge. Simply build the liner back up by backfilling and compacting the soil beneath the liner. Thus raising the edge of the liner above the water level. Cover with pond gravel and you are done.

**STEP 2:** Look for obstructions in the stream and waterfalls. If you have recently adjusted some of the rocks to change your waterfalls look or sound may have inadvertently caused some of the water to be diverted over the liner. Also look for excessive plant or algae growth in the stream allowing water to make it over the edge. If you use any floating plants in your Biofalls, inspect the area occasionally as the volume of plants raises the water level and can cause water to leak over the back or side edge of the Biofalls.

**STEP 3:** Can't find the leak yet? Shut down the main pump and leave it off for 12 or more hours. Make sure to perform this test during the nighttime hours or on a very cloudy day so evaporation does not fool you in your leak test. Make a small mark on the skimmer or a rock somewhere at the water line. After a minimum of 12 hours, check to see if the water level has dropped below your mark. If you have lots of fish in your pond and will have it off more than 12 hours, we recommend you use a small aerator pump to provide oxygen to the fish.

If the water level has dropped, you now know the leak is in the pond. If the water level remains the same, the leak is somewhere else in your system.

Leave the pump off and wait until the water level stops dropping. This could take several days. The water level will continue to drop until the leak is at the water line. When the water level stops dropping, you have determined the height of the leak. Simply investigate the water line all the way around the pond. It takes a sharp eye and moving lots of rocks to spot the leak. Don't forget to check the area around the skimmer face plate!! Use the wet soil method behind the liner and around the skimmer.

Still can't figure out the leak??? At this point you may want to contact Proscapes LLC and schedule a service call. After you have performed these simple steps you have saved lots of time and money. Try to give us as much information as possible so we can quickly access the problem and fix it for you.