Start with what you know

Directions, individual tasks, and room for observations. Use digitally or print. Nothing submits automatically.

TLDR

Begin with your pond's history and an estimate of its water loss. Note any water you add to keep it full. Soil information and water-level tracking are optional. Explore repair approaches or talk with our team at any point. You do not need to complete this guide before asking for help.

1. Describe the pond

Pond name or location

Approximate surface area and units, if known; otherwise write Not sure

Has the pond ever stayed at the water level you wanted? Mark one.

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Not sure

If yes, approximately when did it begin dropping below that level?

When do you notice the drop? All year, dry weather, other, or Not sure

What would you like to improve about your pond?

You may skip any question you cannot answer. Staff help and self-service are both available using the links at the bottom of every page.

Estimate the water loss

2. Record your best estimate

An estimate is fine. You do not need to begin a measurement program before moving forward.

Approximate water-level drop in inches; or write Not sure

Over what interval? Per day, per week, or describe another interval

3. Note any water you add

Are you adding water to help maintain the level? Mark one.

- ☐ Yes - answer the optional questions below
- ☐ No - skip to the next page
- ☐ Not sure

Where does the added water come from? Well, stream, other, or Not sure

About how often or how long does the pump run? An estimate is fine

Does the estimated drop occur with the pump on, off, or Not sure?

Other known inflow or outflow observations, if any

A steady level can still require substantial replacement water. These observations give context; they do not by themselves measure seepage.

Add soil information or readings

4. Add soil information if you have it

If you know your soil type, record it below. Otherwise write Not sure. You can optionally use the leak tool, locate and outline your pond, follow its analysis steps, and paste a link to your completed report. You do not need to select a conductivity value or compare soil layers.

Soil type or description, if known

Completed analysis report URL, if available

5. Track water level only if useful to you

Choose a fixed, non-floating dock reference or a securely installed staff gauge. From a fixed dock, mark one safely accessible point and measure vertically down to the water. A larger distance means lower water. For a staff gauge, read the scale at the water surface. Keep the same reference and units.

About once a week is a useful starting interval, or choose an interval that works for you. Record the date and measurement. There is no required monitoring period before requesting help.

- ☐ I chose a measurement method, if I want to track the level
- ☐ I identified a fixed reference point
- ☐ I recorded a first reading below

Method / reference / units / preferred interval

Reading 1: date, time, and measurement

Reading 2: date, time, and measurement

Reading 3: date, time, and measurement

Explore repair approaches

Use these options as a reference, not a diagnosis or product prescription. Mark any approach you would like to explore and write questions beside it. You can ask our team for help even when your observations seem clear.

6. Consider whether water must stay in place

Mark one.

- ☐ The pond needs to stay filled
- ☐ I could consider lowering or draining it
- ☐ I would like advice

Treatment with water in place

A through-water treatment such as Soilfloc may fit suitable soil-seepage conditions. Review suitability and application requirements before choosing it.

- ☐ I would like to explore treatment with water in place

Notes or questions about through-water treatment

Preparation and compaction of existing soil

If the treatment area can be exposed, suitable native soil may be prepared and compacted. Establish that the material can meet the intended retention requirement.

- ☐ I would like to explore using and compacting the existing soil

Notes or questions about existing-soil compaction

Soilfloc suitability: fish and small ponds

Do not use Soilfloc in ponds under 5,000 square feet that contain fish. Ask our team about a suitable alternative. If pond size or fish presence is unknown, confirm both before choosing a treatment.

Suitability update: October 25, 2026. This applies to the through-water treatment option above.

Compare the remaining options

Bentonite soil amendment

A bentonite amendment such as PondLock may fit where soil can be prepared, mixed, and compacted appropriately. Rate and installation requirements depend on the site and material.

☐ I would like to explore a bentonite amendment

Notes or questions about bentonite

A liner system

Compare site preparation, installation requirements, and the complete installed cost.

☐ I would like to explore a liner system

Notes or questions about a liner

A specific pipe, outlet, or embankment feature

If you have noticed a problem with a particular feature, record what you saw and where. A pond-bottom treatment may not address it.

☐ I have a specific feature I would like evaluated

Feature, location, observation, or photograph reference

Continue in the way that suits you

Explore treatment information yourself, talk with our team, or do both. Bring whatever you already have. Estimates and unanswered questions are welcome. No completed worksheet or selected treatment is required.

Self-service pond soil and leak evaluation

Speak with Natural Waterscapes: 877-493-7660