

# glossary

## of terms

**absorb**

To take in through pores. This is what Aquascape's activated carbon does.

**acclimate**

To accustom or become accustomed to a new environment or situation; adapt.

**aerobic**

Living or occurring only in the presence of oxygen: aerobic bacteria.

**ammonia**

A gaseous compound of hydrogen and nitrogen, NH<sub>3</sub>, that readily mixes with water. It has a pungent smell and taste.

**anaerobic**

An organism, such as a bacterium, that can live in the absence of atmospheric oxygen.

**anoxic**

Relating to or marked by a severe deficiency of oxygen in tissues or organs.

**AquaClearer™**

Aquascape's patented beneficial bacteria.

**backfilling**

To refill (an excavated area) with such material.

**back flush**

The process of draining and purging impurities out of a plumbing/filtration system.

**bedrock**

The solid rock that underlies loose material, such as soil, sand, clay, or gravel.

**BIOFALLS® Filter**

Aquascape's patented biological filter/waterfall unit.

**biological filter**

Any unit designed to consume nutrients and particulates from a body of water through the use of beneficial bacteria and filtration media.

**buffer**

A substance that minimizes change in the acidity of a solution when an acid or base is added to the solution.

**canister**

A usually cylindrical storage container.

**cantilevered**

A projecting structure, such as a beam, that is supported at one end and carries a load at the other end or along its length.

**cavity**

A hollow; a hole.

**channel lock**

A locking, adjustable wrench.

**channeling**

To direct or guide along some desired course. In our system, the water will get channeled around dirty, clogged filter media.

**collar piece**

The tool-less union fitting of an Aquascape check valve.

**colonize**

To plant or establish a colony or colonies in; to migrate to and settle in.

**compaction**

An increase in the density of something by the act of tamping.

**coupling**

To link together; connect. A PVC coupling will connect two pieces of pipe.

**culling**

Anything separated or selected from a mass.

**de-chlorinator**

A chemical that neutralizes the presence of chlorine and chloramines in city water.

**detritus**

Loose fragments or grains of debris and/or organic material.

**diatomaceous**

Consisting of diatoms (brown algae) or their skeletons.

**dormant**

In a condition of biological rest or inactivity characterized by cessation of growth or development and the suspension of many metabolic processes.

**ecology**

The science of the relationships between organisms and their environments.

**ecosystem**

An ecological community together with its environment, functioning as a unit.

**EPDM**

Ethylene Propylene Diene Monomer.

**erosion**

The group of natural processes, including weathering, dissolution, abrasion, corrosion, and transportation, by which material is worn away from the earth's surface.

**evaporation**

The process by which any substance is converted from a liquid state into, and carried off in, vapor; as, the evaporation of water.

**excreted**

To separate and discharge (waste matter) from the blood, tissues, or organs.

**facultative**

Capable of functioning under varying environmental conditions and use of different forms of food under different conditions. Used of certain organisms, such as bacteria that can live with or without oxygen.

**fertilizer**

Any of a large number of natural and synthetic materials, including manure and nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium compounds, spread on or worked into soil to increase its capacity to support plant growth.

**filter media**

Any material with a tremendous amount of surface area, used to colonize beneficial bacteria for water filtration.

**filtration**

The act or process of filtering; the mechanical separation of a liquid from the solid particles floating in it.

**flap gasket**

The check valve component that closes during backflow, holding water in the pipe and biological filter.

**flocculate**

To convert into floccules or flocculent aggregates; to make granular or crumbly; as flocculation of a pond causes organic particles to clump together into larger clumps that can be filtered, or will sink.

**foliage**

A cluster of leaves, flowers, and branches; especially, the representation of leaves, flowers, and branches, in architecture, intended to ornament and enrich capitals, friezes, pediments, etc.

**fragmentation**

Separating something into fine particles.

**funnel**

A passage or avenue for a fluid or flowing substance.

**game fish**

A non-ornamental, native fish that lives in a natural habitat.

**geotextile**

A synthetic fabric. (Underlayment)

**GFCI**

Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter.

**gneiss**

A crystalline rock, consisting, like granite, of quartz, feldspar, and mica, but having these materials, especially the mica, arranged in planes, so that it breaks rather easily into coarse slabs or flags.

**habitat**

The area or environment where an organism or ecological community normally lives or occurs: a marine habitat.

**hardscape**

The part of a building's grounds consisting of structures, such as patios, retaining walls, and walkways, made with hard materials.

**head pressure**

The total dynamic head of a pump caused by the friction, rise and run of pipe.

**hibernation**

Cessation from or slowing of activity during the winter; especially slowing of metabolism in some animals.

**hydrostatic pressure**

The result of gases being released from a liquid and contained from above.

**indigenous**

Originating and living or occurring naturally in an area or environment.

**joist**

Any of the wood, steel, or concrete beams set parallel from wall to wall or across or abutting girders to support a floor or ceiling.

**K.I.S.S.**

Keep it simple stupid.

**macronutrients**

An element, such as carbon, hydrogen, oxygen, or nitrogen, required in large proportion for the normal growth and development of a plant.

**mechanical filter**

*see skimmer*

**membrane**

A thin sheet of natural or synthetic material that is permeable to substances in solution.

**micronutrients**

A substance, such as a vitamin or mineral, that is essential in minute amounts for the proper growth and metabolism of a living organism.

**microorganisms**

An organism of microscopic or submicroscopic size, especially a bacterium or protozoan.

**monofilament**

A single strand of untwisted synthetic fiber, such as nylon, used especially for fishing line.

**MPT slip**

Male pipe thread slip fitting used to connect pipe to a threaded inlet.

**nitrites**

The univalent radical  $\text{NO}_2$  or a compound containing it, such as a salt or an ester of nitrous acid.

**nitrogen cycle**

Ecology. The circulation of nitrogen in nature, consisting of a cycle of chemical reactions in which atmospheric nitrogen is compounded, dissolved in rain, and deposited in the soil, where it is assimilated and metabolized by bacteria and plants, eventually returning to the atmosphere by bacterial decomposition of organic matter.

**omnivorous**

Eating both animal and vegetable foods.

**organic matter**

Any carbon-based form of life, dead or alive.

**outcroppings**

The part of a rock formation that appears above the surface of the surrounding land.

**ovate**

Shaped like an egg, with the lower extremity broadest.

**oxygenate**

To treat, combine, or infuse with oxygen.

**panicles**

A branched cluster of flowers in which the branches are racemes.

**parasite**

Biology. An organism that grows, feeds, and is sheltered on or in a different organism while contributing nothing to the survival of its host.

**pathogenic**

Originating or producing disease.

**phantom tripping**

A GFCI breaker that has been tripped by an outside source, even though the primary electrical components are intact and unexposed to water. (ie, rain or moisture finding its way into the electrical outlet.)

**polyethylene**

A lightweight thermoplastic; used especially in packaging and insulation, or for large pond projects.

**polypropylene**

A polymer of propylene used as a thermoplastic molding material and for large pond projects.

**pores**

A space in rock, soil, or unconsolidated sediment that is not occupied by mineral matter and that allows the passage or absorption of fluids: Water seeped into the pores of the rock.

**primer**

A chemical solvent used to clean and prepare a surface for bonding.

**protrusions**

To shoot out or forth; to be thrust forward; to extend beyond a limit; to project and cause deformity.

**radiation**

Energy radiated or transmitted as rays, waves, in the form of particles.

**retention ponds**

The lowest elevation of a particular area that naturally collects and retains water.

**retrofit**

To install or fit (a device or system, for example) for use in or on an existing structure, especially an older dwelling.

**rhizomes**

A horizontal, usually underground, stem that often sends out roots and shoots from its nodes. Also called root-stalk, rootstock.

**salt bath**

A sodium chloride bath for fish to help fight infections and diseases.

**sediment**

Solid fragments of inorganic or organic material that come from the weathering of rock and are carried and deposited by wind, water, or ice.

**sedimentary**

Geology. Of or relating to rocks formed by the deposition of sediment.

**shut off height**

The maximum elevation change a pump is rated to push liquid.

**sieve**

A utensil for separating the finer and coarser parts of a pulverized or granulated substance from each other.

**skimmer**

A mechanical pre-filter designed to remove surface debris and house the submersible pump.

**sludge**

Broken down organic debris accumulated on the pond floor. (i.e., fish waste, dead lily leaves, and tree foliage)

**solution**

A homogeneous mixture of two or more substances, which may be solids, liquids, gases, or a combination of these.

**spawning**

To produce or deposit (eggs), as fishes or frogs do.

**static head**

The rise and run of piping with no friction.

**subcontracted**

A contract that assigns some of the obligations of a prior contract to another party.

**submersible**

Capable of being immersed in water or functioning while submerged; "a submersible pump."

**sump**

A low-lying place, such as a pit, that receives drainage.

**synthetic**

Prepared or made artificially.

**total dynamic head**

The pressure on a pump caused by the interactions of its flow rate, pipe diameter, pipe length, elevation, and pipe material.

**transit**

A surveying instrument that measures horizontal and vertical angles. (Used for setting a pond's water level.)

**traverses**

To go up, down, or across (a slope) diagonally.

**ultraviolet sterilizer**

A device that uses the process of radiation to destroy organic compounds that pass through its ultraviolet light.

**vapor lock**

An air pocket, typically in the check valve, that prevents a pump from pushing the liquid in its pipe run.

**volute**

In the shape of a coil; cavity which houses the impeller on a pump.

**weir**

A low dam built across a stream to raise its level or divert its flow.

**wet well**

A large pump housing with a screen or grate pre-filter, constructed for commercial projects or retention ponds that have no option of skimmer use.

