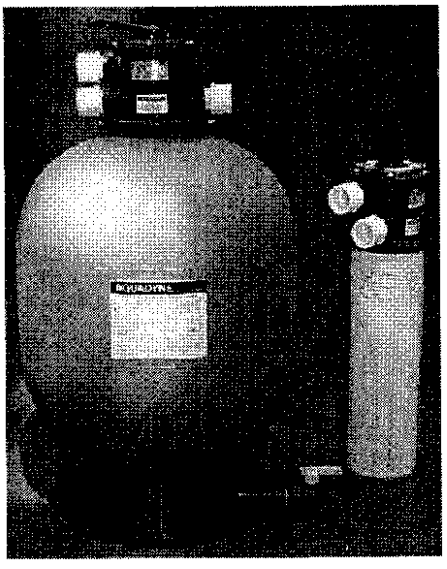
I was recently asked if the Aquadyne system had any drawbacks. Well, the question really stumped me, and after deliberation, I did come up with an answer. In the very worst case, one might experience some clogging if you were to use an undersized pump to backwash the system, that did not have sufficient enough flow to clean the beads. However, with the advent of the Dynamax air assist system, even this is not a problem. For those rare circumstances, one would remove the control head, stir the beads in the tank through the generous 7" opening, re-insert the head, perform a backwash and rinse cycle, and that's it. The entire process takes only 5 or 10 minutes.



If you experience a clog
follow these simple instructions.
(If you purchesed a Dynamax Air Assisted Backwash, you will not need these instructions)

1. Turn off your pump.
2. Disconnect the union fittings from the control head.
3. Loosen the neck band bolts and remove the head and column.
4. Open the sludge drain valve and allow 3 to 4 gallons of water to drain.
7. Take your hand or a short board or other object and stir the beads very well, breaking loose any debris that may be clogging the beads.
8. Re-assemble the head, neck clamp, and unions. Place the control handle in the BACKWASH position and turn the pump on. This will continue to wash any trapped debris in the filter out the waste line. When the BACKWASH waste water runs nearly clear, place the control valve in the RINSE position until the rinse water runs clear. Reposition the control valve in the FILTER position and you are done. Open the sludge valve for a couple of seconds to discharge any remaining debris in the bottom of the tank.

NOTE: It is recommended that you perform this unclogging procedure whether needed or not about once or twice per year in the spring and/or fall if you do not have a Dynamax Air Assist. If you do have a Dynamax system, you will likely never have to remove the control head for maintenance.

Vacation

If you plan to be away from your pond for an extended period of time, there is no need to worry about backwashing your filter while you are away. The filter is designed so that there is little resistance to water flow through the media and diffuser column. If you are normally backwashing once per week and not getting an extreme amount of dirt waste from the filter, you can leave you filter running for three to four weeks unattended, depending on the filter size and fish load, but you will want to perform a very good backwash, upon returning to assure that the filter is clean.

There is a word of caution: When leaving your filter for long periods of time, be sure to buffer your pond water. The Aquadyne filter together with the live bacteria in your filter are so efficient that a pH shift may occur if your water is not buffered. It is easiest to buffer with, crushed oyster shell, or crushed coral which is available from most pet stores. Apply this type of buffer at a rate of 1 pound per 1000 gallons of water. Simply place buffering material in a nylon stocking or equuivalent nylon screen material and place it in an area of the pond in which water circulates.

Stop the constant washing of messy filter pads sponges and actually spend more time enjoying your pond!