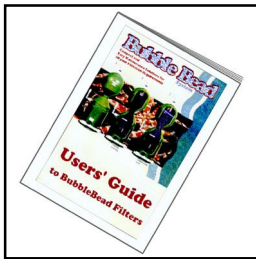


# BubbleBead Filter

## Quick Reference Guide

For Models 1, 2, 4, 6 & 10

Congratulations on the purchase of your BubbleBead Filter which is designed to give you optimal clarity and health in your pond system. The filter is straightforward to use but care is required during the installation procedure for the correct operation of the filter and the best overall results.



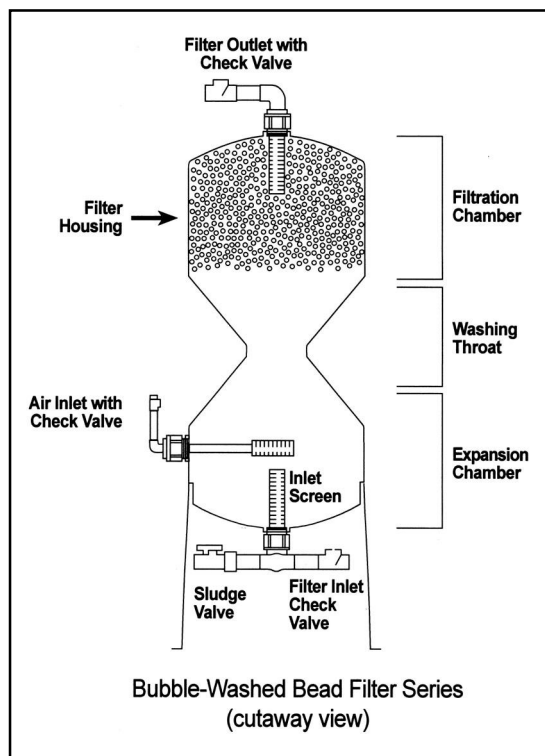
This quick reference guide is not intended to replace your **User's Guide** which carries full details on the installation and operation of your filter. It is important that you refer to this when necessary. In this quick guide the ➤ symbol directs you to the appropriate pages in the full **User's Guide**

### Getting Started

This diagram shows the various parts of a typical BubbleBead Filter (Standard Range). The exact shape and position of e.g. the waste ('sludge') outlet & checkvalve, will vary between models.

Check that all the necessary parts have been received before continuing (➤ p.12).

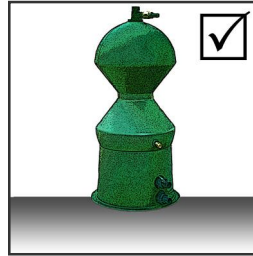
➤ See pages 4 & 5 in your **User's Guide** for a full outline of how the filter system works in normal use.



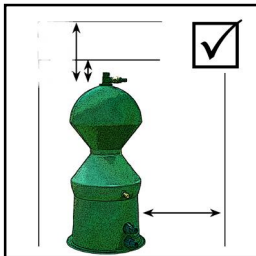
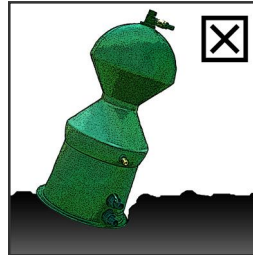
## Siting the Filter

➤ see page 11 in the User's Guide

DO mount the filter on a firm, level base



DON'T mount on soft, unstable or unlevelled ground



DO leave some access space for maintaining the filter (and a UV if fitted)

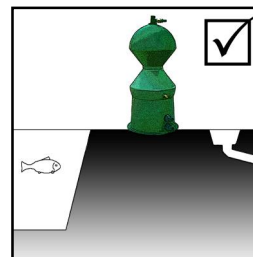


DON'T fit the filter where future access will be difficult or impossible

DO mount the filter above pond level and above drains/soakaways wherever possible.

A good height above drains will give a better quality backwash

➤ see page 11



DON'T bury the filter; and don't position in low sites unless unavoidable.

Where low siting is necessary,

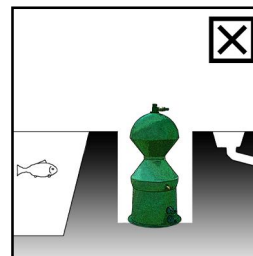
- see Appendices 1 & 3 in the User's Guide

➤ pages 34/5

- see the section on

Dealing with Waste Water

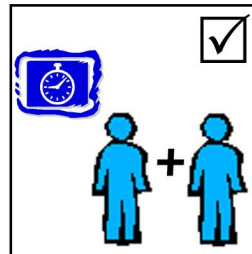
➤ page 18



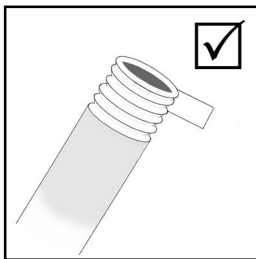
## Assembling the Filter

➤ The steps to assembling your filter are described on page 12 (or in the separate Assembly Guide supplied with your filter)

DO allow sufficient time and do get assistance to move the filter

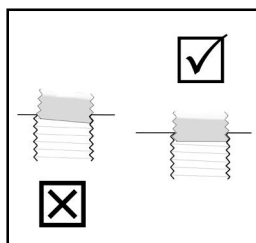


DON'T rush the assembly, or parts could become damaged and don't attempt to lift heavier items on your own



## General Plumbing

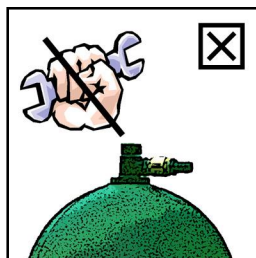
DO use sufficient PTFE tape on all threads  
 DO only tighten fittings by hand initially to ensure that the threads are not damaged  
 DO only tighten further by hand  
 - or using a soft belt wrench  
 - or using a tool on the hexagon section



DON'T cross-thread the fittings

DO position the male fittings evenly in the holes, square-on and not at an angle.  
*Turn anti-clockwise one turn to settle into place before screwing into position.*

➤ See plumbing tips on pages 15 & 16.



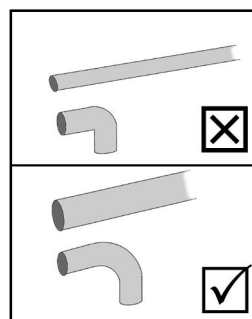
DON'T over-tighten the fittings

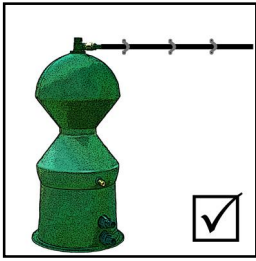
DON'T use levers to tighten fittings  
 - you could crack them!

## Inlet and Outlet Plumbing

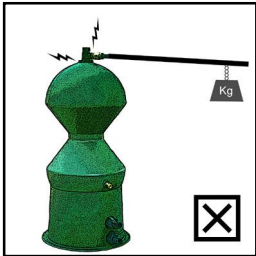
DON'T use narrow pipes  
 Avoid knuckle bends  
 Avoid outlet restrictions (➤ page 40)

DO use large bore hose and pipe  
*e.g. 1 1/2" hose allows over two and a half times the flow of 1" hose*  
 DO use swept bends, or double 45° bends in preference to knuckle bends





DO support pipework  
- use clips to hold pipes in place  
against walls etc.

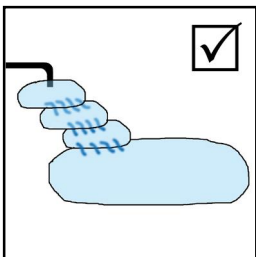
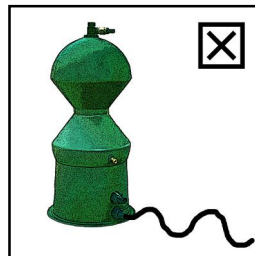


DON'T allow pipework  
to put strain on the filter

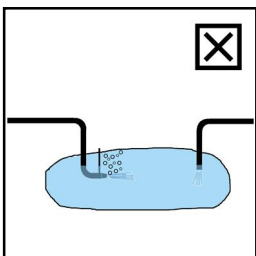
DO use straight pipework  
on the waste outlet



DON'T use undulating pipes



DO encourage aeration  
e.g.  
- feed return water down cascades  
- use an air-pump to feed airstones in  
the pond (but keep airstones away  
from the filter intake).



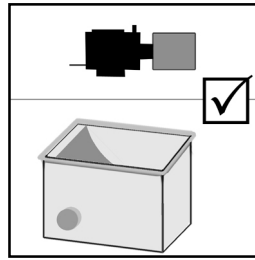
DON'T position return pipes below water  
- this gives poor aeration and can cause  
under-pressure in the filter by siphoning  
water back to the pond  
➤ page 17

Some venturi return devices tend to restrict flow rates and they are not always a particularly efficient means of aeration. Cascades and air-pumps are recommended alternatives.

## Pumps & Strainers (➤ pages 8 & 9)

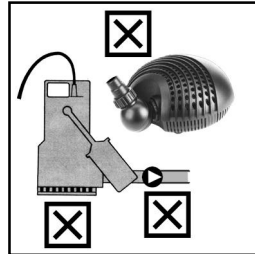
DO use reliable models suited to continuous use and within the pressure ratings quoted (➤ see pages 8 & 10)

DO use a pump with a strainer (< 2mm gauge) or an alternative e.g. the EstroSieve unit



DON'T use solids handling pumps without an additional strainer  
➤ page 9

AVOID using additional footvalves on the pump unless these are essential; they can reduce flow rates.



## Using the Filter

WHEN STARTING FOR THE FIRST TIME:

➤ Follow the Guidelines on page 18 of the User's Guide



DO carry out a **trial backwash**



DO note the time taken for the procedure,  
- this gives a guide to how long a typical backwash lasts



DO listen to the backwash operation,  
- this gives a guide to how the unit sounds when operating correctly

RUNNING - IN ➤ page 20

All filters take time to mature



DO use filter maturing agents or active media to seed the filter



DO monitor water quality (ammonia; nitrite; nitrate; pH etc.)



DO carry out regular backwashes once the filter has fully matured ➤ page 22 - 24

Regular backwashing can eliminate most water quality and filter clogging problems before they occur



DON'T backwash during the first few weeks whilst the filter is maturing, and avoid excessive backwashes during the rest of the maturing period. ➤ page 22



DON'T overstock ponds during the maturing phase


## Automatic Backwashing

See Appendix Two ➤ page 35

DO use a **suitable timer** for the pump rating,  
or use the specified controller ➤ page 35 

DO consider fitting an **auto top-up** to your system  
➤ see pages 22 - 26 for general maintenance details 

DO **schedule backwashes** to occur at times  
when you can monitor the process

DO ensure that your sump/drain can cope  
with the waste water 

DON'T schedule backwashes during main  
feeding/viewing times ➤ page 23 

## Maintenance

The filter is a low maintenance item

– NO filter is ZERO maintenance !

For safe and proper function carry out regular and additional  
backwashes as suggested, and use the additional drain  
occasionally. ➤ see pages 22 - 24



DON'T FORGET to maintain your pump strainer  
(or EstroSieve) as well



## Winter Running

The cold can chill the water and your fish,  
and ice can damage your filter system ➤ see page 25

## Monitoring your fish & water quality

Being aware of warning signs stops small problems from  
developing in to major ones.



If the fish behave unusually -  
DO check the water quality

## Troubleshooting



If the water quality is not correct, check the  
Troubleshooting Guide ➤ starting on page 27

If the filter system does not appear to be functioning correctly e.g.  
- the backwash takes longer than normal  
- the backwash doesn't start properly  
- the filter sounds different during the backwash

check the Filter Troubleshooting Guide ➤ starting on page 30

You could also check the support section on the website:

[www.bubblebeadfilters.co.uk](http://www.bubblebeadfilters.co.uk)

For further details: check your User's Guide; check with your dealer; if you are still having problems  
- contact the UK distributor Aquatica International Tel: 020 8669 6643  
[info@bubblebeadfilters.co.uk](mailto:info@bubblebeadfilters.co.uk)

quickguide1.5 (for use with User's Guide ver 1.5x) (A3 reformatted for A4)