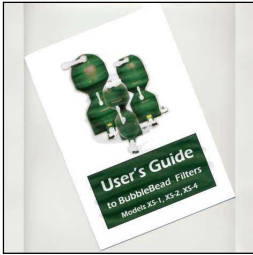


# BubbleBead Filter

## Quick Reference Guide

For XS Models

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

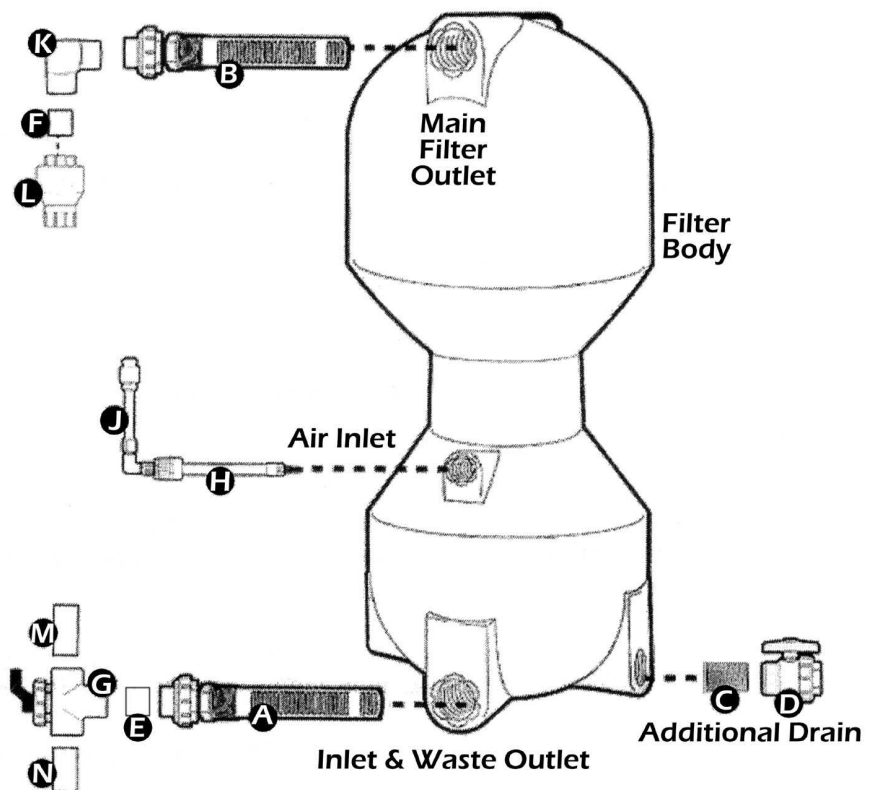
### Getting Started

This diagram shows the various parts of a typical BubbleBead Filter (XS Range). The exact shape will vary between models.

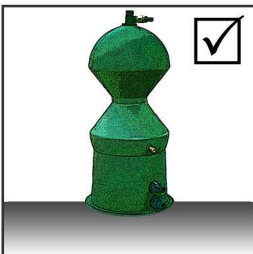
Check that all the necessary parts have been received before continuing.

You should also have a volume of bead media a roll of PTFE tape and your copy of the User's Guide

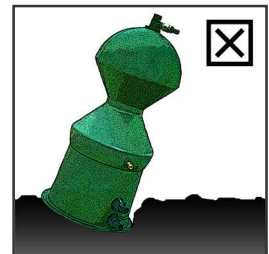
You will require PVC glue and appropriate pipe fittings to link to and from your pond/tank



**Siting the Filter** ➤ see pages 4 & 5 in the User's Guide

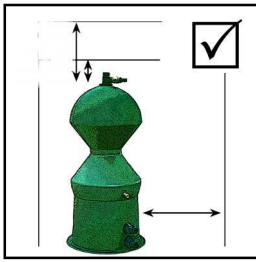


DO mount the filter on a firm, level base

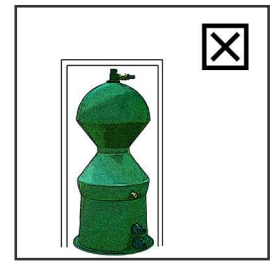


DON'T mount on soft, unstable or unlevelled ground

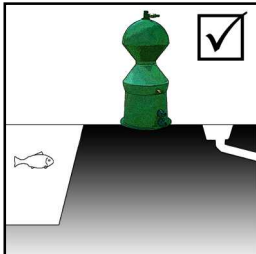
## Siting (cont.)



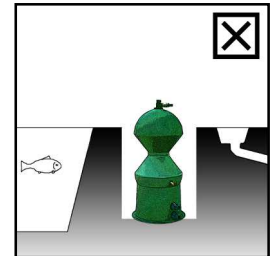
DO leave some access space for maintaining the filter (and a UV if fitted)



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

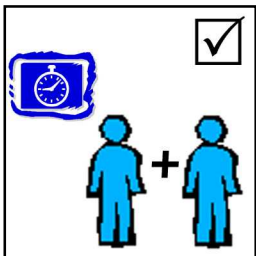


DO mount the filter above drains/soakaways where possible. A good height above drains gives a better quality backwash ➤ see page 5



DON'T bury the filter in soil. Don't site below drains unless unavoidable. ➤ page 4

## Assembling the Filter See the section in the User's Guide ➤ pages 6 to 10

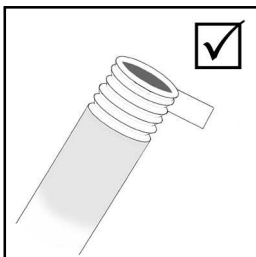


DO take time to read the Assembly Instructions  
DO take ample time over the assembly  
DO get assistance to move the filter

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

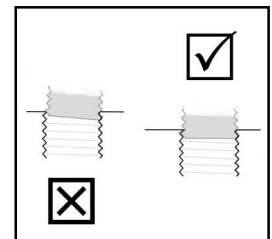


## General Plumbing

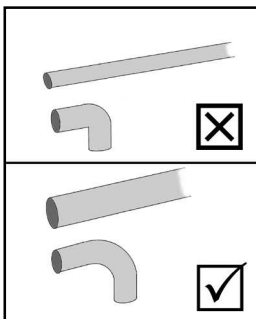


DO use sufficient PTFE tape on all threads  
DO only tighten fittings by hand

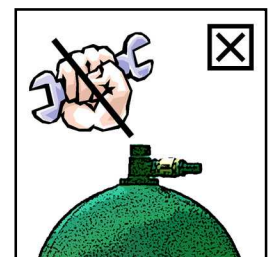
DON'T cross-thread the fittings  
DO position the male fittings evenly in the holes, square-on and not at an angle.



TIP: Turn fittings anti-clockwise a half turn or so, to settle into place, before screwing into position.

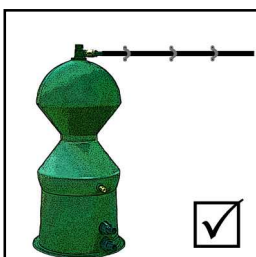


DON'T over-tighten the fittings  
DON'T use levers to tighten fittings - you could crack them!  
If you have to use a tool, try a soft belt wrench



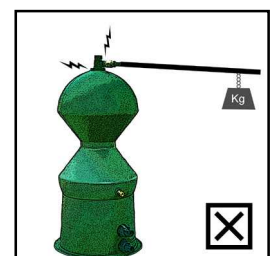
DON'T use narrow pipes. Avoid knuckle bends.

DO give PVC glue ample time to set.  
DO use swept bends, large bore hose and pipe e.g. 1 1/2" hose allows over two and a half times the flow of 1" hose



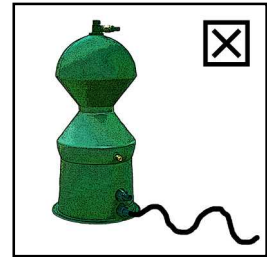
DO support pipework - use clips to hold pipes in place against walls etc.

DON'T allow pipework to put strain on the filter

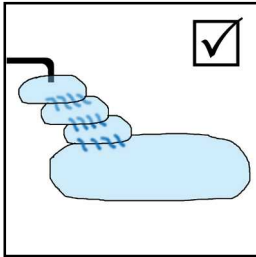




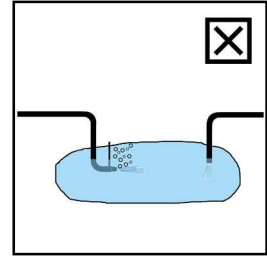
DO use straight pipework on the waste outlet



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).

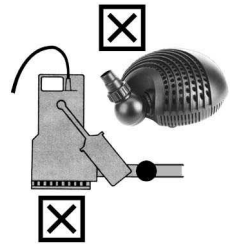


DON'T position return pipes below water - this gives poor aeration (➤ see page 16)

## Pumps



DO use a reliable pump of suitable flow and pressure (➤ see pages 13 & 14)  
DON'T use high-pressure (over 7m head) pumps without a pressure release bypass and DON'T use any pump with a rated head exceeding 10m.  
DO use a pump with either an integral strainer ( $\leq 1.5$  mm gauge) or an alternative pre-filter e.g. In-line coarse filter, Sieve unit, or Skimmerbox with coarse strainer, or an easily cleaned vortex/settlement/brush chamber



DON'T use solids handling pumps unless using with an additional strainer  
➤ page 15

## Using the Filter for the First Time ➤ Follow the Guidelines on pages 16 to 18



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 the Filter ➤ pages 19 to 21



DO use filter maturing agents or active media to seed the filter  
All filters take time to mature



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



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 21



DON'T overstock ponds during the maturing phase

## Backwashing ➤ pages 21-23

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

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



- DO consider fitting an **auto top-up** to your system  
➤ see page 23



- 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 22

## Maintenance

The filter is a low maintenance item – NO filter is ZERO maintenance !

For proper function, carry out regular backwashes and use the additional drain as specified.

- see pages 21 - 25 for details of regular and long term maintenance



- DON'T FORGET to maintain your pump strainer sieve or pre-filter unit as well



- Winter Running** ➤ see page 25

Cold can chill the water and your fish, and ice can damage your filter system

## 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 Water Quality Guide ➤ starting on page 32

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 28

For further details:

Check your User's Guide; Check with your dealer; Check the FAQ's on the Website

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

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)