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## Tetra 26563

# TetraPond Bio-Active Pressure Filter Instruction Manual

Model: 26563 | Brand: Tetra

## INTRODUCTION

The TetraPond Bio-Active Pressure Filter is engineered to maintain clear and healthy water in ponds up to 1500 gallons. This system utilizes both mechanical and biological filtration processes to effectively remove debris and harmful pollutants, ensuring a balanced aquatic environment.



Figure 1: The TetraPond Bio-Active Pressure Filter, designed for clear and healthy ponds.

## SETUP AND INSTALLATION

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Proper installation is crucial for the optimal performance of your TetraPond Bio-Active Pressure Filter. Follow these steps for setup:

1. **Pump Connection:** Connect a suitable pond pump to the filter's inlet. Ensure the pump's flow rate is between 2500 gallons per hour (GPH) and 4500 GPH. Using a pump outside this range may damage the filter or prevent effective backflushing.
2. **Outlet Connection:** Connect the filter's outlet to your desired water return point, such as a waterfall or stream.
3. **Placement:** Position the filter securely near your pond.
4. **Initial Operation:** Once connections are secure, activate your pond pump. Water will begin to flow from the pond, through the filter, and back into the pond.

**Important Note:** All pressure filters inherently restrict water flow from your pump. Expect an approximate 45% reduction in the water flow rate through this filter.

## OPERATING PRINCIPLES

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The Bio-Active Pressure Filter employs a two-stage filtration process:

### Mechanical Filtration

Pond water is pumped into the filter and flows through specialized bio-activators. These bio-activators are designed to trap and remove suspended debris, dirt, and other particulate matter from the water, contributing to initial water clarity.



Figure 2: Illustration of water flow and mechanical filtration within the filter, showing debris being trapped.

## Biological Filtration

The bio-activators provide a massive surface area for beneficial bacteria to colonize. These bacteria are essential for the "Nitrogen Cycle," converting harmful pollutants (like ammonia and nitrite) in the water into relatively harmless nitrates. Nitrates are then absorbed by aquatic plants or removed through partial water changes, ensuring a healthy biological balance in your pond.



Figure 3: Internal view of the filter showcasing the bio-activators, which provide surface area for beneficial bacteria.

## MAINTENANCE AND CLEANING

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Regular maintenance, particularly backflushing, is vital for the continuous efficiency of your filter. The easy backflush valve simplifies this process, preventing dirt buildup and maintaining biological activity.

## Backflushing Procedure

1. **Prepare for Discharge:** Ensure the backflush port is directed to an appropriate discharge area, such as a garden bed, as dirty water will be expelled.
2. **Activate Backflush:** Locate the backflush valve on the filter. Turn the valve to the "clean" or "backflush" position. This reverses the water flow and forces it down the center tube.
3. **Whirlpool Effect:** The reversed water flow creates a whirlpool effect within the bio-activator chamber, effectively loosening trapped dirt and debris from the media.
4. **Discharge Dirty Water:** The loosened dirt and debris are then discharged out of the backflush port. Continue backflushing until the discharged water runs clear.
5. **Return to Filtration:** Once backflushing is complete, return the valve to the "filter" or "run" position to resume normal filtration.

This process allows for efficient cleaning without needing to open the filter, preserving the beneficial bacteria on the bio-activators.

## TROUBLESHOOTING

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If you encounter issues with your TetraPond Bio-Active Pressure Filter, consider the following common problems and solutions:

- **Reduced Water Flow:**
  - **Check Pump:** Ensure your pond pump is operating correctly and is not clogged.
  - **Filter Clogging:** Perform a backflush. If the filter media is heavily soiled, a full manual clean may be required (though less frequent with proper backflushing).
  - **Hose Kinks:** Inspect all hoses for kinks or obstructions.
- **Water Not Clearing:**
  - **Insufficient Filtration:** Ensure the filter is appropriately sized for your pond's volume (this model is for up to 1500 gallons).
  - **New Pond Syndrome:** For new ponds, it may take several days or weeks for beneficial bacteria to fully establish and clear the water.
  - **Overfeeding/Overstocking:** Excessive fish waste or uneaten food can overwhelm the filter. Adjust feeding habits and pond stocking levels.
  - **UV Clarifier:** If algae is a persistent issue, consider adding a compatible UV clarifier (not included with this filter).
- **Leaks from Filter Connections:**
  - **Tighten Connections:** Ensure all hose clamps and connections are securely tightened.
  - **Inspect Seals:** Check O-rings and seals for damage or improper seating.
  - **Hose Compatibility:** Verify that the hoses used are the correct size and type for the filter's inlets/outlets.

## SPECIFICATIONS

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Feature	Detail
Model Name	Bio-Active Pressure Filter
Model Number	26563
Pond Capacity	Up to 1500 Gallons
Item Weight	9 Pounds (4.08 kg)
Product Dimensions (LxWxH)	17 x 15.38 x 18 inches (43.18 x 39.06 x 45.72 cm)
Manufacturer	TetraPond
Material	Cotton ( <i>Note: This refers to filter media, not the housing material</i> )
First Available Date	May 3, 2006

## WARRANTY INFORMATION

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For detailed warranty information regarding your TetraPond Bio-Active Pressure Filter, please refer to the product label or the official documentation included with your purchase. Warranty terms and conditions are subject to change and may vary by region.

## CUSTOMER SUPPORT

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Should you require further assistance, have questions not covered in this manual, or need to report an issue, please contact Tetra customer support. You can find more information and contact details by visiting the official Tetra store or website:

[Visit the Tetra Store on Amazon](#)

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This manual is for informational purposes only. Always refer to the physical product label for the most accurate and up-to-date instructions.