

Wanted: A New Pump

Wednesday, Oct. 28, 2009, 4:30 p.m., EDT

With my pump manufacturer's departure from the North American market, I must choose my clients' needs. Our job as pond and water garden contractors is to install products that last. A company develops a bad reputation in its community when word spreads that it installs inferior products, so pond and water garden contractors look for the best products at reasonable prices.

As we all know, returning to replace a pump under warranty proves costly for pond and water garden contractors. A company begins to die if manufacturing defects result in multiple returns. Returns are not a good thing, no matter how big a smile the manufacturer gives us when replacing the product.

OASE Living Water was my pump manufacturer of choice. Because OASE decided to exit the North American market, I am scrambling to decide which line of pumps are in my clients' best interest and which filters will require the fewest returns.

Many pond and water garden contractors are with me as we scratch our heads while perusing the plethora of new products flooding the market. One great thing about the new generation of pumps is that most companies market them as "green" or energy conscious.

What good is an extremely energy-efficient pump, however, if it lasts only two months before ending up in the trash, contributing to already overfilled landfills? This does not sound green to me. Please share your decision-making process for pond pump purchases.