

Build a Pond at Home

Making a pond in your garden is something that is going to be personal to you, so these instructions are designed to give you a helping-hand and some fun ideas. Having a pond is a brilliant way of having wildlife and fish in your garden and doesn't have to take up much room. You could attach your water butt to the pond so that you can use surface run-off water to fill your pond. Remember that it doesn't have to be complicated – anything watertight could potentially work, even an old kitchen sink!

What you will need:



- Shovel
- Trowel
- garden hose
- plank of wood
- spirit level
- pond liner
- sand/liner underlay/newspaper
- bricks
- landscaping rocks

Step 1: Get those muscles ready.....

First dig yourself a decent hole. You may want to look in garden centres and online at pre-made pond liners so that you have an idea of what shape you would like your pond to be. You may find it easier if you mark out your pond area with string or garden hose so that you can see how big it will be and what shape suits the area best. When you start digging try to dig straight down as you want to keep the walls solid so that your liner can rest against it.

Step 2: It's all in the design.

You will need to think about what you want to put in your pond e.g. fish and plants. Do some research into what depth of water they like. It's a good idea to have a deeper area for fish and maybe one side that is shallower for some water plants.

At this stage it is really important to check for rocks and roots that may puncture your liner. Use your shovel and trowel to remove protruding rocks and roots to ensure it is as smooth as possible.





Step 3: the fiddly bit....

Now put about an inch of one of the following; sand, damp newspaper, carpet or special underlay in the bottom of your hole and on the ledges. Then place your liner on top, be careful not to drag it around too much as you don't want to risk puncturing it, but with a little draping and patience, you can achieve a neat look with your liner. You may want to take your shoes off and get into the pond and gently push the liner into the edges to get it flat and in the correct position. Once you are happy with the position of the liner use bricks to hold it in place.

Step 4: Splash and Splosh, it's time for the water!!

Start to fill the pond with water until it is about half full (or 2 inches from the top of the liner). As it is filling gently ease out the liner at any areas where you need to allow more liner to reach the bottom or fix up any pleats.

When you are happy with the liner place your layer of bricks around the ledge, neatly with no gaps. The purpose of the bricks is so that you will be able to have the water level above the liner so you will not notice it's there.



Step 5: Final step to a beautiful pond



Next gently ease the liner straight up behind the bricks and pack dirt up to it like a ramp, then fold the liner down and pack dirt over top. You can see in the photo that the liner comes up to the level of the bricks and then is hidden and slopes away from the pond. In the pond in the photo there is a "wetland" area. At the top of the photo there is a semi-circle of sand where the liner continues flat at the level of the bottom of the bricks under the sand, and then is built up in a mound. The sand area will be constantly wet allowing us to grow plants that like wet feet, but do not like to be submerged. Finally you just need to finish filling your pond, you could try letting it fill with rain water or you could collect the water

from your roof, this will create a much more natural pond and reduce the chemicals in the water.

Yippee!! You now have a beautiful garden pond.

If you would like to put fish in your pond it is important to wait for the water to settle and naturalise before you add any fish. We suggest that you get your pond planted and established for at least 4 weeks before you put fish in. It is advisable to speak to your local pet shop or fish supplier who will be able to inform you of the water quality checks to complete and how many fish would be appropriate for your pond and what time of year is best to put them in.