



One Planet Matters

HOW TO BUILD YOUR OWN POND

YOU WILL NEED:

- A big patch of garden
- A plank of wood
- Pond liner - (preferably made of butyl rubber, which is durable, flexible, moderately cheap and easy to work with)
- A variety of pond plants
- Some large rocks
- A spirit level
- Builder's sand
- A good spade or mini-digger depending on how big your pond will be.
- Water (use rainwater for best results)

STEP ONE: It is better for wildlife if you put the pond in a warm, sunny area - tadpoles, dragonflies and plants with thrive in these conditions. First, mark out your pond on the ground with a rope or hosepipe, and then get digging! Ensure that the sides are level as you dig by placing a plank across the pond's hole with a spirit level on top. Remember to include some shallow areas in your pond.

STEP TWO: Remove any sharp stones from the bottom of the hole. Put down a 5 cm-thick layer of sand to line the hole. Sand is preferable because it is sterile and will not harbour any undesirable seeds or microbes, but you can also try old carpet, newspapers or even loft insulation material. Remember to save some sand for step 4.

STEP THREE: Dig a trench around the edge of the pond for the overhanging pond liner to drop into. Place the liner carefully in the hole and tuck the edge into the trench; weigh it down with large rocks. Any extra excess liner can be snipped off with scissors.

STEP FOUR: Fill the bottom of the pond with the remaining sand rainwater to fill your pond, or fill from the top with a hose. If possible, use collected rainwater to fill your pond, or fill from the top with a hose. To stop the sand substrate dispersing, rest the nozzle of the hose on a plastic bag to absorb some of the energy. If you do fill your pond with tap water then leave it so stand for a few days before adding it in. As the pond fills up, the liner will stretch. Back fill the trench around the edge of the pond with soil. As the pond is filling, place turf, soil or flagstones over the exposed liner at the pond edges. Butyl liner degrades in sunlight, so try not to leave areas of uncovered liner exposed for too long.

STEP SIX: Plants can be introduced to your pond approximately 1-2 weeks after the initial filling with water. Carefully selected native species will support your local wildlife.

STEP SEVEN: Watch and see what wildlife visits. Place stones, logs and plants around the edges to create habitats for pond-visiting creatures. Consider adding a plank of wood to help any wildlife that might fall in.

If plants are well chosen, and the pond is kept in a relatively balanced ecological state, it shouldn't need much maintenance at all. However, do keep an eye out for a build-up of dead organic matter and encroaching vegetation.

ALL INFORMATION TAKEN FROM:
<https://www.wildlifetrusts.org/actions/how-build-pond>



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