

# The sound of running water brings a pond to life

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## POND CARE



**Ponds don't have to be very deep to attract wildlife but marginal areas for planting is vital to allow aquatic plants to help the biodiversity of the pond**

make the spill ways for the waterfall, alternatively you could create a stream on a steady gradient leading to a second pond or beached area. Bog areas are important for wildlife and should be shallow; approx. 150mm, to allow for 100mm of aquatic soil, beached areas can add a nice feature and will also allow for frogs and toads to leave the pond. Fountains or jets of water will add aesthetical properties but are no good for lily's, as they do not like being splashed with water. Other features to consider may include bridges, a floating deck or a patio to sit on and enjoy your work!

### Lining:

There are a number of different lining methods and all will depend on the ground conditions and size of the pond. Generally speaking; a garden pond will usually be lined using a rubber or plastic membrane. You should ensure that your liner is; UV stable and has a guarantee of at least 25 years. When lining a pond, ensure that the site is free from debris and roots, add some sand on the base and sides, then a decent quality geotextile fabric more than 120gsm, this will prevent roots from penetrating the liner. Laying the liner in this way will give the best protection for the liner. Try not to use old bits of carpet or tiles as these may allow the roots through and rot over time. Other methods of lining may include preformed ponds, which should last forever, but do restrict you to shape and volume. Fibre-glassing will also last but should be installed by a professional company and are generally used for formal shaped koi ponds. Bentonite matting or GSL liner is used on larger scale projects and will require skilled installation.

### Filtration:

This depends on the type of pond, location, stocking densities and the amount of feeding. In a natural pond, waste and organic materials collect at the bottom where it decomposes, creating an environment for important pond bacteria and

Once you have chosen the location and the type of pond you want to build; it's now time to consider any features. The sound of running water really can bring a pond to life; as well as blocking out noise levels of nearby traffic. Waterfalls or streams can be created by using some of the removed spoil (which will save money on removing waste from site) by banking the spoil along one side of the pond you can carve some steps into it – these will

wildlife. The natural balance of the pond is left to stabilize itself. Ornamental ponds and koi ponds need filtration to keep the water crystal clear and so that fish species like Orfe and Koi Carp can survive. Mechanical filters remove solid waste and also act as a biological filter by creating large surface areas for bacteria to grow, which break down fish waste. UV filters help to keep the water body clear from algae and small particulates. Most filters require a pump designed to move the water through the filter medium though there are a few all in one units on the market designed for smaller ponds.

### Stocking:

Once the pond is filled, there is no reason why you can't add aquatic plants straight away. Once the pond has been settled for a couple of weeks, you can start stocking some small fish, a little at a time and feed them very little until the pond is established. Try to avoid stocking koi and larger fish until the filters are mature, usually a few months.



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