

Every living thing needs water to survive!

Almost any water body, whatever its size, will have some wildlife value, even if only as a drinking station for birds. But water isn't just for drinking, amphibians like newts, frogs and toads use water as shelter and for their breeding grounds. Butterflies get valuable minerals and salts from slightly muddy water, and birds use water to bathe and remove parasites.

How to dig a pond

1. Choose your location

Choose a spot with plenty of sunshine and that doesn't present any flood risk — think where excess water will go if it overflows.

2. Design your pond

Make sure you plan some shallow shelving margins — to make sure if animal who falls in, like hedgehogs can easily get out, 60 cm in the middle is plenty deep.

3. Choose your liner

There are plenty of pre-moulded liners on the market, usually made of fibreglass, and they are very durable but expensive. Flexible liners are also available, made from PVC or rubber.

4. Dig your hole

5. Line your hole

If you have a ready-made mould, carefully lower it into your hole to make sure it's a snug fit.

6. Protect your liner

It's a good idea to put some washed gravel into the base — it provides cover and protects the liner from getting punctured.

7. Fill with water

It's best to use rainwater, as tap water contains nitrates and phosphates which can lead to algae problems.

8. Plant it up!

There are many wildlife friendly options for pond planting — you'll find a few ideas to get you started opposite.



Water forget-me-not



Yellow iris



Water violet

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