

5 SIMPLE STEPS TO BUILDING THE PERFECT POND

STEP 1

MATERIALS & TOOLS

You can't build a pond without the right tools, equipment and materials. Here's what you're going to need to get the job done...



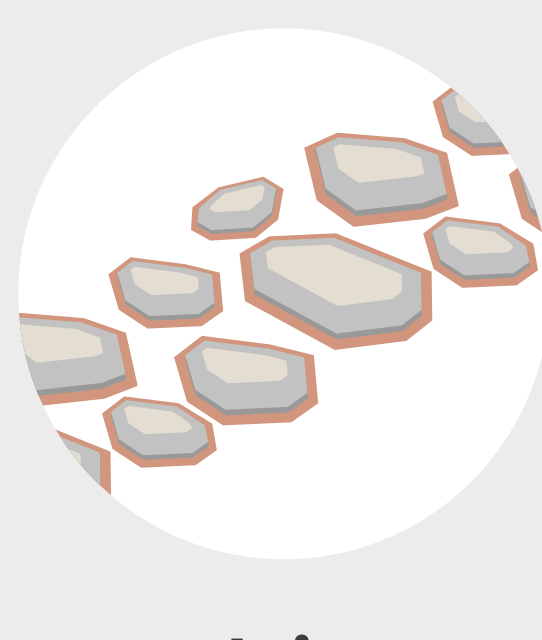
Liner



Underlay



Sand



Edging



Spade



Wheelbarrow



Skip/Bags



A helping hand

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STEP 2

PLANNING & PREP

Planning is possibly one of the most important steps when doing any task, but when it comes to building a pond, proper planning is essential.

FIRSTLY...

You need to know where you're going to put the pond and how it's going to fit in your chosen space.

DRAW!

Draw out the outline in sand, or even use a hosepipe or piece of rope.

AVOID!

Overhanging trees and boggy areas.

MAKE SURE...

There's going to be at least half a day of sun shining on the area to help water plants thrive.

REMEMBER...

Make sure it's in a place that's easy to bring power to the pond if needed.

CHECK!

Check how it looks from a suitable place, and make sure you can navigate around it for trimming the lawn or handling other garden tasks when the pond is done.

STEP 3

DIGGING

Now the hard work begins...

Digging can be a pretty tough step from start to finish, so now's the time to enlist those extra helpers to get the job done:

- Take precautions to protect and cover the route you're using to move soil
- Decide if you want to keep some soil to create unique pond features
- Keep the edges of your pond level (check with a piece of wood and a spirit level)
- Think about implementing "shelves" as you dig to accommodate pond and water plants.

STEP 4

LINING & FILLING

It's time to bring your pond to life!

Adding in underlay, your pond liner, and filling your pond is going to transform your newly dug hole into a fully-fledged pond:

- **Add in 1" (2.5cm) of soft sand** across the bottom of the newly dug hole, including any shelves where possible (this protects your liner from sharp objects)
- **Position and place** your pond underlay – this can be done in overlapping sections, using tape to prevent sliding
- **Put in your pond liner** – an easy way

to do this is to position the liner, and step on the liner to push it into the right positions (without shoes and socks on)

- **Loosely trap the edges** of the liner under some large stones
- **Begin filling your pond** with water – the liner will start to settle, and you may need to move stones as it fills to prevent the liner from being too taut

STEP 5

EDGING

The finishing touches to your pond.

Edging can be heavily dependant on personal preferences. This stage is usually done a few days after the pond has been dug, lined and filled to allow everything to settle properly. But edging consists of using your chosen materials (stones, slabs, sleepers etc.) to create a beautiful finish around your pond.

Here's a few ideas:

Paving slabs resting on the liner edge that's above the ground and a layer of "dry stones" (the stones are set in the water on a separate shelf to support the slabs and prevent them from damaging the soil/lawn edge and sliding into the water), with a small amount of gravel surrounding the back edge of the slabs

A lawn covering the edges of the liner – a simple natural look that's highly effective

Paving slabs and gravel set above the liner, with a concrete foundation below the liner (the concrete provides similar support to the dry stones in the first idea, whilst allowing you to use the shelf within the pond for plants)

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