



Make your own garden mini-pond!

It's easy to make your own mini-pond and you don't need a large garden - a small backyard or just a patio will do! Once there you pond could provide a bathing place for birds, or a home for dragonflies or even newts and frogs.

You will need:

A large water-tight container eg a washing up bowl

Small stones or gravel

Larger stones or sticks

Pond plants (optional)



1. Choose your spot. Somewhere which gets some sun but is not in full sunlight all day is ideal! You can dig a hole to put your container in or it can just sit on the surface.



2. Place a layer of small stones or gravel into the bottom of your container

3. Add large stones, bricks or sticks to create a range of depths and provide a way for your pond visitors to climb in and out. If you pond is just sitting on the surface you will need to use sticks or stones on the outside of the pond as well to allow creatures to climb out.



4. Fill your pond with water. Rainwater is better than tapwater as tapwater contains chemicals. If you have to use tapwater leave it to stand for a few days to get rid of the chemicals before adding it to the pond.

5. Add some pond plants if you can get them - you can buy them in garden centres. Rigid horn wort and whorled water milfoil are ideal to grow under the water and will help keep your pondwater clear of algae. Also add plants which will poke up above the surface such as marsh marigold, water-forget-me-knot and lesser spearwort. You will only need 2 or 3 plants for a pond this size.
6. Sit back and wait for the wildlife to arrive! Don't be tempted to go and collect wildlife from wild ponds to bring back, creatures will find their own way to your pond.



Looking after your pond

Don't worry if your pond gets algae in for the first few months, you can scoop it out with a stick. After a while all the wildlife which your pond attracts will help keep the water clear. If you need to top up the water in your pond remember to use rainwater or tapwater has been standing for a few days.

