

How to build a patio pond

You don't need a big garden to have a pond. With a cheap plastic pot, some stones and plants you can easily create a haven for insects and amphibians, and somewhere for birds and mammals to drink.



Things you need

Waterproof pot (without holes) • Smooth pebbles, rocks or bricks • Native oxygenating plants (eg Hornwort) • Small pond plants (eg dwarf water lily, frogbit or watercress) • Aquatic plant baskets and soil • Dechlorinated water or rainwater • Decorative rocks or driftwood • Floating solar fountain (optional)



1. Choose a large, waterproof pot (for example a sump pot) and place it in its final position.



2. Add a few bricks, pebbles or flat stones to create different water depths and provide resting places for wildlife.



3. Place a short log or sturdy branch so that one end sits in the water and the other extends above the rim, creating an escape route for animals.



4. Slowly fill the pot with clean water, preferably rainwater. Leave the pond for a few days before encouraging wildlife to visit naturally.



5. Add pond plants - oxygenating and decorative. A bag of watercress will take root when dropped in the water.



6. Check the water level regularly and top up with rainwater when needed. Remove any fallen leaves or debris to keep the water clean.



7. You can also add a solar mini fountain, but it's not necessary.



We would love to see your finished pond! Please do email us a photo at hello@cheltenhamactionfornature.org