

# How to build a wildlife pond

## You will need:

- A sunny area
- Some sand or old carpet
- PVC or butyl liner
- Native pond plants

## Why build a pond?

Ponds are important habitats for many animals and plants. They have a greater diversity of life than any other garden habitat. As well as the creatures in the pond, mammals and birds will be attracted to drink and bathe. Ponds provide food and shelter for many aquatic animals as well breeding areas for toads, frogs and newts.

Floating plants will provide some shade to pond creatures.

There should be no trees hanging over the pond as these will cause shading and drop leaves.

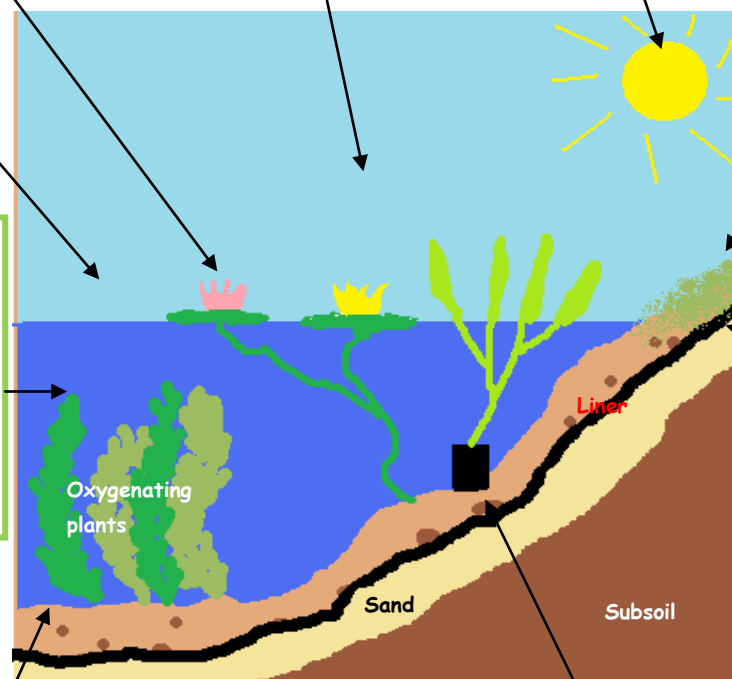
Make sure the pond is in sunlight for as many hours as possible.

Minimum size should be 4-5 m<sup>2</sup> surface area

A gently sloping shallow area is important. This can be used by bathing birds.

The deepest point should be at least 75 cm to allow hibernating amphibians and invertebrates to survive the winter when the pond is frozen over.

After digging the hole and removing any stones, spread a layer of sand 5 cm thick or use some old carpet to protect the liner.



You may wish to use the subsoil to create a thin layer of soil to plant into.

There should be a shelf 20-30 cm deep for emergent plants.

## Other considerations:

- Ease of access is important as this will make pond maintenance easier and allow you to get close enough to watch the pond creatures.
- Also provide some wildlife corridors such as long grass and shrubs to provide cover for animals
- You should have an overflow area into a marsh/bog garden