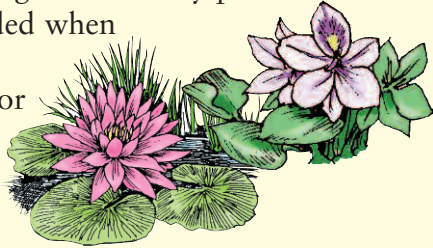


## 5. Add Fish and Plants

Less is best when adding fish to a water feature. Add a few fish to your new pond; after several weeks, more can be added if needed. Avoid overstocking your pond with fish.

Tropical aquatic plants can be added to the pond when water temperatures reach 65 degrees F. Hardy plants can be added when they are available for purchase.



## 6. Feed Your Fish

### SPRING

- ✓ Water temperature should be between 55-65 degrees F.
- ✓ Feed fish every 3-4 days.

### SUMMER

- ✓ Water temperature should be 75 degrees F or warmer.
- ✓ Feed fish once a day.

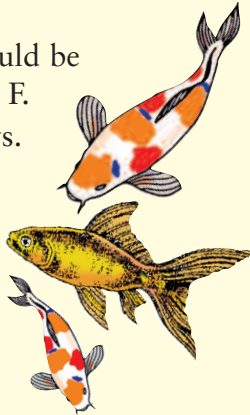
### FALL

- ✓ Water temperature should be between 65-55 degrees F.
- ✓ Feed fish every 3-4 days.

### WINTER

- ✓ When water temperatures drop to 50 degrees F and below – do NOT feed fish.

Our aquatic specialists are here to help you with your pond and water garden needs.



## 7. Maintain Your Pond

### SPRING: Time to open the pond

- ✓ Change 50% of the water in the pond to remove any unwanted particles or debris from the winter.
- ✓ Add a de-chlorinator after the water change.
- ✓ Biological filters need a “jump start” so add a bacterial starter.
- ✓ Water pH should be between 7.0 - 7.5; 7.2 is ideal. Use a kit to determine the pH level in your pond.
- ✓ Cover your pond with netting if animals and birds pose problems.

### SUMMER: Time to watch the water

- ✓ Watch for water evaporation; added water needs to be treated with a de-chlorinator.
- ✓ Check water pH weekly; 7.2 is ideal.

### FALL: Time to close the pond

- ✓ Clean out all muck and floating debris.
- ✓ Remove, dry and store pumps and filters.
- ✓ Cut back and submerge all hardy aquatic plants into the deepest area of the pond.
- ✓ Tropical aquatic plants should be removed and disposed of.
- ✓ Place an air pump in the pond.
- ✓ Aquatic salt should be added according to label directions.
- ✓ Place and secure a net over the pond to catch any leaves or debris.

### WINTER: Time to aerate the pond

- ✓ Fish ponds need to be aerated during the winter months to allow oxygen into the pond and to permit toxic gases to escape. An air pump or electric de-icer can be used for this purpose.

We carry a full line of fish, food, remedies, accessories and pumps for your outdoor aquatic needs.



# Water Gardens and Fish Ponds

Do It Yourself



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## 1. Plan first!

It's wise to plan your pond or water garden first. The style and size of the pond should fit your landscape; avoid ponds or water features that are too large or too small for the space. Plan within your budget. If uncertain, our aquatic specialists can help you. Check with your town or village for electrical wiring codes, property line, and depth of pond safety requirements so you can plan accordingly. **It's important to determine the type of pond you want.**

- A **WATER GARDEN** needs sun for most aquatic plants to grow successfully. Water gardens are generally shallow, about 18-24" in depth and can include goldfish.
- A **FISH/KOI POND** is usually larger in size and can be a shady location. These are generally deeper, 3' or more in depth, to protect koi during the winter months. They generally do not include plants that koi would feed on.

## 2. Select a suitable location

- Sun versus shade – aquatic plants need sun to grow; trees add leaf litter and other debris. Low areas can be prone to flooding.
- Plan responsibly if young children are involved.
- Make sure there is access to water and electricity.
- Locate the pond where you can see it, hear it (waterfalls) and most of all, enjoy it.
- Avoid areas with underground utility lines.

## 3. Choose your materials

Ponds generally fall into two categories – pre-fabricated or liner:

- **PRE-FABRICATED PONDS**, made of injected molded plastic, can be formal (round, oval)

# How to Build a Pond or Water Garden

Always wanted a water garden or pond? There's no better time than now to add the beauty and enjoyment of a pond or water garden to your landscape or garden. With some planning and a little elbow grease, you could be enjoying that new water feature for many years to come.



or informal in shape (kidney, free-form). Pond depth becomes important when over-wintering fish, especially for koi. Some pre-fabricated ponds do not offer the needed depth for over-wintering fish; note this when purchasing your pre-fabricated unit. Pre-fabricated pools are generally used in smaller areas where a water feature is desired.

- **LINERS** are sold by the square foot; these are preferred when you want versatility, creativity and larger ponds. Liner ponds can be as deep as necessary for over-wintering purposes. Select a liner that is a 45mil rubber and is specifically used for ponds. Black liners will make the pond look deeper and more natural. We can help you determine the amount of liner you need.

- Buy the best quality **FILTER** that your budget will allow. Fish ponds need a combination pump and filter to keep water clean for best fish health. It's best to buy a larger filter than needed.
- Buy the best quality **PUMP** that your budget can afford.

## 4. Get ready to dig!

### PRE-FABRICATED PONDS

Place the unit, upside down, on the ground and trace around it with garden lime or a hose. Remove the unit and begin to dig. It's important that you keep the pond level; use a level as you dig. Once dug, set the pre-fabricated pond in the hole and backfill around the edges with soil. Areas that are not level need to be dealt with before you add any water.

### LINER PONDS

Use a rope, hose or garden lime to create an outline of the desired shape. Dig a 6" trench around the inside edge of the outline, creating a ledge effect. Continue to dig and remove excess soil. Fish/koi ponds need a deeper area for fish to over-winter; consider making one area of the pond at least 3' deep. Generally, areas of the pond can be terraced in depth, sloping to a deeper area. Keep the edge of the pond level so the pond will not be lopsided. Remove any rocks, sticks or other debris that could damage the liner. It's best to pad the hole with carpeting, newspapers or landscape fabric cloth before you add the liner. This added layer protects the liner from tears and punctures.

Open the liner and let it warm in the sun for an hour. This will make the liner more flexible and easier to handle. Place the liner in the center of the pond and unfold. Wear socks or soft-soled shoes so you do not damage or puncture the liner! If necessary, fold or pleat the liner so it fits into the hole. Use bricks or rocks to hold the corners in place. Place the submersible pump in the deepest area of the pond. Begin filling the pond with water. Stand in the pond and smooth out any major creases or wrinkles as you go.

Allow the pond to settle for a day or two. Trim off any excess liner; be certain to leave at least a 12" flap. Dig a trench to bury the flap, backfill with topsoil as you go. Create a slight lip (1-2" high) around the edge of the pond. Camouflage with grass, rocks or boulders to create a natural edge for the pond.