

Building Your Pond with Preformed Liner

Step 1: Choose Your Location

Maximize your enjoyment

You'll want to build your pond where you will enjoy it the most, such as next to your deck or patio. Position it so you can see it from a room where you spend a lot of time, such as a family room or kitchen.

Sunlight

Ideally your pond should be built where it will receive 5 to 6 hours of sunlight, so the water plants will thrive. More than 6 hours of sunlight may lead to algae growth.

Building in the shade

Ponds can be built under trees, but plants such as water lilies may not grow and bloom as well.



Step 2: Considerations Before You Start Digging

Safety First

Before you start digging, be sure to call your utility company. Most companies will visit your site before you dig, so you don't accidentally cut electrical, communication or water lines.

Electrical Circuit for Running Pond Pumps and Other Equipment

Be sure you have, or that you install, a GFCI (Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter) electrical outlet. This is a very important safety precaution for any electrical products used outdoors and around water.

The first stage, and the most important in the construction of a pond, is to choose carefully the location, size and design. It is important that you plan for the items that you want in a water garden, such as aquatic plants, fountains, waterfalls and pond fish. The time you spend during this stage is not wasted. It will help reduce the occurrence of problems in the future and increase your enjoyment.

Planning Considerations

Waterfall Location

Decide in advance whether you want a waterfall. You may want to position it so it will face a deck or the windows of your home. The waterfall will need to be constructed higher than the surface of the pond, so as you dig you may want to pile the excavated soil at the place where the waterfall will be created.

Step 3: Layout

Lay the pond on the ground where you want it.



Stand inside the pond location and face outward. Use a spade or a shovel to mark the soil around the perimeter. You can also use spray paint or flour to outline the pond's shape.

Step 4: Excavation

- 1) Remove the sod and top layer of soil inside the perimeter you have marked.
- 2) Extend the perimeter outwards by about 2 to 3 inches.



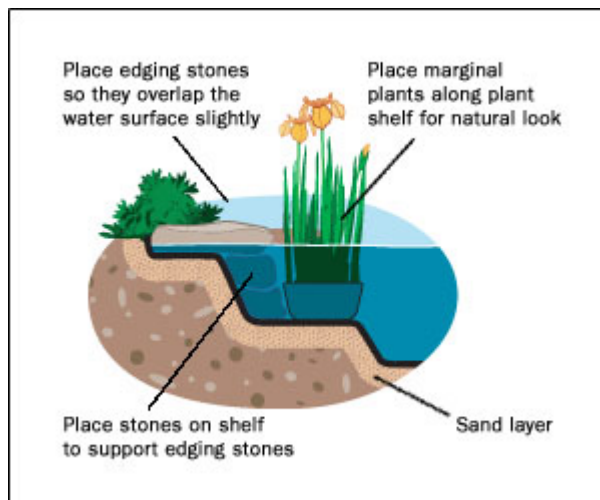
- 3) Dig down into the soil to the depth of the pond. Then dig down another 3 to 4 inches.
- 4) At this stage, when the pond liner is lowered into the hole, it should be relatively level and should sit below the surface of the yard.



Step 5: Adding Sand, Installing the Pond and Leveling

- **Add Sand:** Add 3 to 4 inches of sand on the bottom of the hole.
- **Lower the Pond Liner** into the hole and move it around so it rests firmly on the bottom and is at the desired height.
- **Make it Level:** Use a long piece of lumber and a spirit level to check and adjust the pond until it is level on all sides.
- **Finish Setting the Pond:** Backfill with loose dirt or sand, stopping about 2 inches from the top edge of the pond.
- **Fill with Water:** Fill the pond slowly and continue backfilling. Try to finish backfilling just when the pond becomes full.

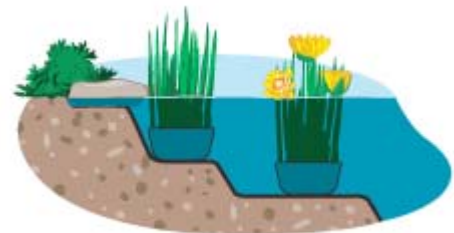
Step 6: Rock borders



Well-constructed, natural-looking ponds have stable stone edging and no liner showing above the water level. Pond water levels do drop during warm, dry weather, however. For that reason, stones should be used to hide the liner, several inches below the water surface, so that the liner will remain unseen.

Step 7: Finishing the Pond

- Finish the stonework, or use paving stones.
- Be sure to hide any liner along the edges with stone, sod or plants.
- Plant marginal plants in gravel among your rock edges.
- Use planter baskets for plants such as water lilies, which may be placed in the bottom of the pond.
- Add a filtration and circulation system.
- Wait to add fish!
- Tap water contains harmful chlorine, chloramines and





heavy metals. Add water conditioners to condition the water before you add fish and plants.