



How to make a pond

Did you know that ponds and lakes are home to a huge variety of wildlife? The Bridgend area has lots of ponds and lakes including Kenfig Pool which is Glamorgan's largest natural lake! Why not head out to visit and see what wonderful wildlife they attract? You'll be sure to get ideas for making your own pond for your garden. You'll be amazed at what wildlife comes to visit.

Top 5 hot-spots

- 1 Blaengarw – Parc Calon Lân
- 2 Bryngarw – Bryngarw Country Park
- 3 Kenfig – Kenfig Pool
- 4 Porthcawl – Wilderness Lakes
- 5 Pyle – Frog Pond Wood Nature Reserve

How to make a pond

You will need

- + Pond liner – best type is made from butyl rubber
- + Variety of pond plants
- + Large rocks
- + Builder's sand
- + Spade
- + Rainwater

What to do

- 1 Pick somewhere in your garden to put your pond – a spot that gets lots of light, but isn't sunny all day.
- 2 Mark out your pond and start digging. Larger ponds attract more wildlife than mini-ponds but even the smallest pond will provide a habitat for wildlife. The pond doesn't need to be the same depth throughout, a depth of anywhere between 20 – 60cm across the pond is ideal.

Continued over



What to do continued

- 3 Remove any sharp stones from the bottom of the pond and then line the base with a 5cm thick layer of sand.
- 4 Dig a trench around the edge of the pond. Place the liner in the pond and tuck the edge into the trench.
- 5 Weigh the edge of the pond liner down with large rocks.
- 6 Line the bottom of the pond with some more sand and fill the pond up with rainwater.
- 7 Once the pond is full, backfill the trench around the edge of the pond with soil. Make sure that as much of the pond liner is covered with soil or rocks to hold it firmly in place.
- 8 After the pond has been filled, leave it to settle for 1 – 2 weeks. Once settled, plant up with a variety of native aquatic species.
- 9 Place stones, logs and plants around the edges of the pond to create habitats for wildlife.
- 10 Watch and see what wildlife visits your pond.



Planting your pond – the 4 ‘zones’

There are 4 ‘zones’ in ponds where you can grow your plants. Try and have plants in each zone for best results. Good plants include:

1. Totally submerged zone – Spiked water-milfoil, shining pondweed, water starwort
2. Submerged but with floating leaves zone – Bladderwort, Common water-crowfoot, Frogbit
3. Emergent zone (shallow areas) – Arrowhead, Greater pond-sedge, Water forget-me-not
4. Marginal zone (pond edge/boggy areas) – Marsh-marigold, Meadowsweet, Purple-loosestrife, Flowering rush

For further information about floral species, please visit these websites:

- + [Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust](#)
- + [Gardners' World](#)



How to make a container pond

You will need

- + A watertight container
- + Gravel
- + Rocks, old bricks or logs
- + Some small pond plants
- + Spade (optional)



What to do

- 1 Find a large, watertight container e.g. bucket, washing up bowl, flexi-tub or an old sink. The container needs to be nice and strong and about 20cm – 30cm deep. If you're using a sink, it can be a good idea to silicon a plug into the plughole to make a really good seal.
- 2 Pick somewhere to put your pond. Choose somewhere that gets a good amount of light, but isn't sunny all day. You can dig a hole for it and bury it so that the edges are level with the ground if you like.
- 3 Make sure wildlife can get in and out of your pond easily. Put bricks, rocks or logs at the edge of the pond to create some steps in and out.
- 4 Put a layer of gravel in the bottom of your container.
- 5 Fill your pond up with rainwater.
- 6 Put some good plants in your pond. You only need two or three plants.
- 7 Watch out – in the first few months, you might get lots of algae or blanket weed. Wind this round a stick to remove it. Once some creatures come and make themselves at home in your pond, they will help keep the water clear.
- 8 Watch and see what wildlife visits your pond.



Remember!

- + Remember that ponds can be dangerous for young children, so pick somewhere safe
- + Remember that in hot weather you might need to top your pond up with rainwater
- + Remember not to use tap water to fill your pond as it contains too many chemicals
- + Remember that good plants include water forget-me-not, marsh marigold and hornwort