

POND PLANNING AND CONSTRUCTION

The installation of your new pond liner should be a straight-forward procedure provided these simple rules are followed...

Planning

Don't rush it! Decide where the pond is to be installed, ideally a level site that receives at least half a days sunlight and is not crossed by buried pipes or cables. Also check the availability of electricity and the cost of running pumps, lights etc. The use of a length of rope or garden hose laid out in the proposed shape of your pond should help you decided what is right for your site. The depth of your pond should be a minimum of 18" and generally speaking, the deeper the better as this helps maintain a more stable temperature and avoids complete freezing in winter.

Excavation

When digging the pond try to ensure a slope of 15° (3" in for every 9" down) on all sides and incorporate shelves at different depths to accomodate the needs of various aquatic plants. Make sure the top of the pond is level, that all sharp objects are removed and that there are no roots that may grow and penetrate the liner. Line the pond with a pond liner underlay as an added precaution against liner damage.

Liner Installation

Now that the excavation is finished, the liner can be draped evenly over the hole and allowed to settle into the contours of the pond, keeping an even overlap on all sides. The next step is to push the liner roughly into place and check that there is a sufficient overlap on all sides at the top of the pond. Now begin to fill the pond and as the weight of the water pushes the liner into the pond, ease out any small wrinkles and neatly pleat any larger folds. When the pond is full, leave for at least 48 hours before finishing around the top edges to avoid damage. The pond may now be finished off - please note: if using cement, any that comes into contact with the water must be neutralised with an appropriate sealant (ask an aquatic dealer). Ensure that paving slabs overlay the pond by at least 2" to protect the liner edge.

Always keep the water level right up to the top especially in the Summer months. A liner exposed to the elements will have a shorter lifespan and more prone to damage. When cleaning the pond, be careful not to puncture the liner with any sharp implements.

Finishing

Make a firm edge behind the liner at the top to give a firm level edge for paving slabs - fill any gaps with sand and any mortar must be sealed.

For a 'gravel beach' finish or rockery - a small ridge should be made below water level to stop gravel from rolling in to the pond. This gives wildlife easy entry/exit in and out of your pond. Please note: adequate protection under rockery should be considered.

