



All about
**Pond
Construction**

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Pond Construction

Introduction

Theoretically, some may think that ponds are a lot of work to maintain and this may be true in part. With proper design and construction, an aesthetically pleasing garden pond can be built to be self-cleaning through plants, animal intervention, proper filtration and drainage. As a new pond owner, this Ebook is designed to give you information that will assist you in the construction, design and care of your garden pond.

General Description

Considerations in the design and construction of a garden pond includes the type of pond, size, location, and construction materials that are needed to add beauty and provide a healthy environment for plant and animal life. In the design phase, it is important to consider accessories that may assist you in determining the frequency of cleaning and maintenance of your pond.

Constructing Your Pond

As part of the construction phase of your pond, the location must be excavated. Construction of larger ponds may require fencing or securing of permits from your local building code office. Before digging, make sure that the measurements for the liner are adequate for the size of the pond. In colder climates, you may need to dig deeper to allow for sufficient depth and greater temperature control. Ponds should be constructed to limit the flow of rainwater because it contributes to algae growth by supplying it with organic debris that contains nutrients.

The life of a pond is in the quality of the water and can be accomplished by a balanced ecosystem between plant and animal life. Whenever there is an imbalance of plants to water, an increase of odors such as noxious gases like ammonia and hydrogen sulfide develop. This issue must be discussed during the design phase because it directly impacts the type, size, and location of the pond.

Type of Pond

The type of material used to construct the pond may determine whether the pond is temporary or permanent. Flexible pond liners provide a lining for the pond so that water do not escape through the soil. This type of lining may be easier to work with, will allow for flexibility during construction and will last many years. If you are concerned the budget or are a novice, this type of material during construction should be considered.

Constructing the pond out of concrete is another option, resulting in a permanent pond. This material allows the owner to construct larger ponds and should be installed by skilled labor. The use of concrete, limestone or marble will result in a higher pH level that contributes to an increase in algae growth.



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Size of Pond

The size of the pond is determined by the available space and the purpose of the pond. In order to accommodate a variety of plant life, population growth and potential growth in size of animal life, it is recommended to construct a larger pond to allow for a stable ecosystem. A pond should have about 40% of its surface area for the deep zone, which should be at least three feet to limit access to known pond predators such as the blue heron. Thirty percent should be an intermediate depth of 1-1/2 to 2 feet and the remaining, at least 1 to 1-1/2 feet deep. During construction, a slight slope at the deeper level will allow for easier removal of debris from the pond.

Location of Pond

When choosing your pond location, you may want to consider an area that will allow visibility from a window in the home or your favorite place to relax. Although pond can benefit from tree shades, you may want to locate your pond away from trees due to fallen leaves. Ponds should not be located where direct sunlight is in excess of 5 to 6 hours. When designing your pond, access to electric outlets for lighting and pumps should be included. You may want to consider locating your pond in an elevated area to prevent runoff from rain or other sources of pollutants.

Construction Materials

Construction materials will include the necessary equipment such as a shovel or heavy machinery to excavate the pond location. A flexible pond liner or concrete will be needed to line the pond area. An assortment of random sized rocks can be used to secure the lining or outer surface area. You may need to purchase a filtration system, pump or other oxygenating equipment. In order to add beauty to the environment, a selection of plant and animal life will be needed.

Pond Care

In order to maintain the beauty and health of the pond, it is necessary to ensure the cleanliness of the water. When organic materials such as dead leaves, grass clippings, fish food, fish and animal waste, dead algae or runoff are present, the low oxygen level puts a strain on the marine line in the pond. When this occurs, cleaning and maintenance is necessary.

Pond Cleaning

Ponds require regular cleaning at least every two or three years or when necessary. Ponds will need to be cleaned if there is an uncontrollable amount of disease, algae growth or an increase in population has occurred. Animal and plant life will also need to be relocated due to the sensitivity of temperature changes or chemical use.

When preparing to clean the pond area, you may need to acquire rubber gloves and boots, a wet or shop vac, chemicals for cleaning, scissors or snips for pruning or thinning vegetation and a net to catch the fish.



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Pond Maintenance

When aquatic plants and fish are present, it is necessary to maintain your pond in order to ensure its beauty and provide a healthy environment. This can be accomplished by regular monitoring of water quality. Although the water may have a clear appearance, it does not mean that it is safe or good for the pond. During maintenance, you should clean filters and pumps, check pond wirings, check for infections and remove debris from the pond that may jam in the filtration or oxygenating systems.

Pond Design

The design of the pond may require additional accessories in order to provide the beauty and quality of life for the plant and animal life. These accessories include, but are not limited to, filters, pumps, lighting, skimmer and an auto-fill.

Pond Accessories

Pond filters are used to keep the pond water purified by removing, debris, pathogens and toxins. Pumps are needed to circulate the water through pipes, returning them back into the pond, and can be used to operate pond fountains, and waterfalls. Lighting placed underwater, floating or overhead will enhance the pond's beauty during the night and may also be used as a deterrent to some pond predators. A pond skimmer collects leaves in a net and makes it easier to dispose of debris that land on the surface. Jets added to ponds provide exercise for some fish and direct leaves toward skimmers, making the collection of debris accessible. If an auto-fill is installed, the pond water level will remain constant so there will not be a need to use water hoses to add water that could be harmful to animal life. Ultraviolet light is desirable for pond use, as they are designed to kill floating algae and control overgrowth.



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