



giving
nature
a home

pond liner & underlay pack

Creating a wildlife pond is one of the best things you can do for nature. This RSPB pond kit includes everything you need to get started: a durable liner, recycled fleece underlay and an expert guide to creating the perfect wildlife pond, including a list of our favourite pondplants.

This liner is:

- 100% Waterproof
- 100% Rot Resistant
- UV Stabilised (sunlight resistant)
- 30 Year Guaranteed*

* When installed using a suitable aquatic underlay (included).

If you have any comments about any of our products, please write to RSPB Sales Ltd, Sandy, Beds SG19 2DL or email shopping@rspb.org.uk. RSPB Sales Ltd is the wholly owned subsidiary of RSPB, registered charity in England and Wales no. 207076 and Scotland no. SC037654.

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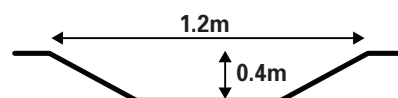


HOW MUCH LINER WILL I NEED?

To work out how much liner you need, take your ideal pond length and add this figure to your ideal pond depth multiplied by two, then do the same with the width.

For example, a 1.2m x 1.2m pond with a maximum depth of 0.4m will need a 2m x 2m liner.

This is because $1.2m + (0.4m \times 2) = 2m$.



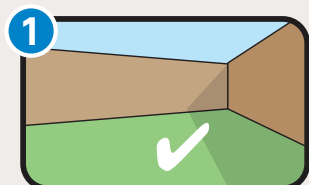
Other examples:

3m x 3m liner = 2m x 2m pond (0.5m depth)

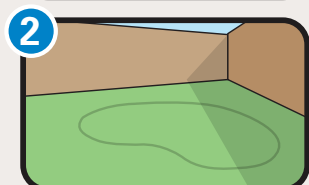
4m x 3m liner = 3m x 1.8m pond (0.6m depth)

Creating your wildlife pond

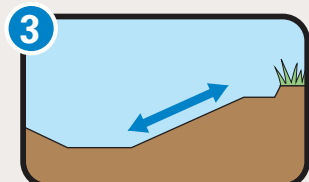
Installation Guide



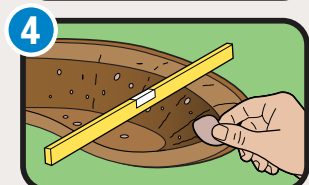
- 1 Pick a site that receives direct sunlight for at least some of the day, avoiding overhanging trees. Think about how the site will be safe for people, especially children.



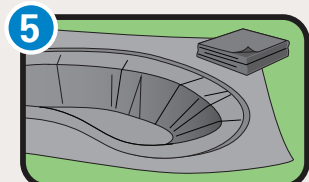
- 2 Mark the outline of your pond on the ground. Gentle curves work best with this liner. Once you know your ideal pond size, use the formula on the front page to make sure you have enough liner.



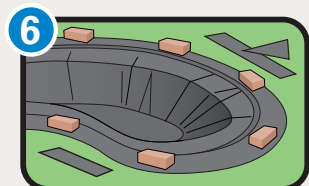
- 3 Dig out the pond, creating extensive, gently sloping margins where wildlife can enter and exit. Include flat shelves for plants.



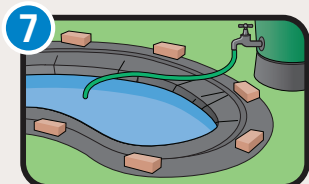
- 4 Use a spirit level to check that the rim of your pond is level and adjust if necessary. Pick out any stones that could puncture your liner.



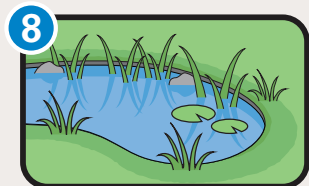
- 5 Spread the underlay across the whole pond and push it down into the contours you have created. You may need to make little folds in places. Unfold the liner being careful not to damage it.



- 6 Cut the liner and underlay to size, leaving about 30cm of overlap. Anchor the edges temporarily with something heavy, such as bricks.



- 7 The best way to fill a wildlife pond is with rainwater. You can leave it to fill naturally or use a water butt. If you want to fill your pond from the tap, leave the water for a few days before adding plants so that the chlorine can evaporate.



- 8 Edge your pond by putting turf, rocks or paving over the overlap. Turf will offer wildlife a safe margin to crawl into, whereas paving can make sunning surfaces for dragonflies and damselflies.

Planting Guide

The right plants will transform your pond into a buzzing home for dragonflies, amphibians and other pondlife.

You might like to add a layer of washed gravel or gravel/sand mix – this will protect the liner, look more natural, and allow plants to root. However, avoid adding soil to the pond as this can encourage algae. It is best to add plants in mesh pots.

Here are a few of our favourite plants for small ponds. Buy only from nurseries guaranteeing native British pondplants:

Marsh Marigold (*Caltha palustris*)

Kidney-shaped leaves and large yellow buttercup flowers from April-June.

Provides cover for frogs, as well as nectar for a range of hoverflies and solitary bees.

Hornwort (*Ceratophyllum demersum*)

Long submerged stems with densely whorled leaves.

Dragonflies and damselflies lay their eggs on these, and aquatic creatures such as tadpoles use them as hiding places.

Spiked Water-milfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*)

Similar to but more feathery than Hornwort.

Another great hiding place for all sorts of pondlife and helps create a healthy ecosystem in the pond.

Water plantain (*Alisma plantago-aquatica*)

Spear-shaped leaves held above water, and slender flower stems with pale pink flowers.

Provides vertical stems for dragonfly and damselfly nymphs to crawl up when they emerge.

Do not introduce amphibians or spawn from other ponds as this can transfer disease. We recommend not adding fish.