

# TOP TIPS & HANDY HINTS

Choose a sheltered, sunny spot for your pond and avoid siting it directly under a tree.

Visit the pond / aquatic section of your local garden centre to buy your liner. The staff will be able to tell you how much liner you need for the size of your pond.

Always get your plants from a garden centre or from a friend's pond. Never take plants from the wild. Encourage oxygenating plants to establish first.

Water creatures will find their own way to your pond so there's no need to take them from elsewhere. Avoid having fish in your pond as they tend to eat all the other wildlife!

Don't worry if your pond goes green at first, it will soon clear up once the plants have put oxygen back into the water.

In cold weather float a ball in open water. This will allow oxygen into the pond for hibernating frogs and newts.

Ponds are fun, but to keep them safe never leave children unattended. Gentle sloping edges are safer and easier for wildlife and people to climb out of!

Try and keep approximately one third of your pond surface free from encroaching plants. If you have to remove any vegetation always leave it next to the pond for a day or so to allow any trapped creatures to return to the pond.

Try and use collected rain-water for topping up the pond over the summer. If you have to use tap-water, let the water stand in a bucket overnight before you use it. This will remove the minute amounts of chlorine, which can be harmful to pond life but make it safe for us to drink.

If you find that you are constantly refilling your pond, it may be that there is a hole in the liner. A simple indication is that the water level drops quite quickly to establish a new level at the level of the hole. Depending on the type of liner you have, contact your local supplier with details and they should be able to advise you.



THE NORTH CHILTERN TRUST



The North Chilterns Trust looks after the natural environment in Luton & South Bedfordshire. The Project Partners are Beds County, South Beds District & Luton Borough Councils, Three Valleys Water, The Wildlife Trust & The Countryside Agency. Also supported by Luton & Dunstable Partnership - funded by SRB.

Three Valleys Water,  
Clay Lane Environmental Centre, Clay Lane,  
Bushey, Herts, WD2 3RE. Tel: 0208 4205864

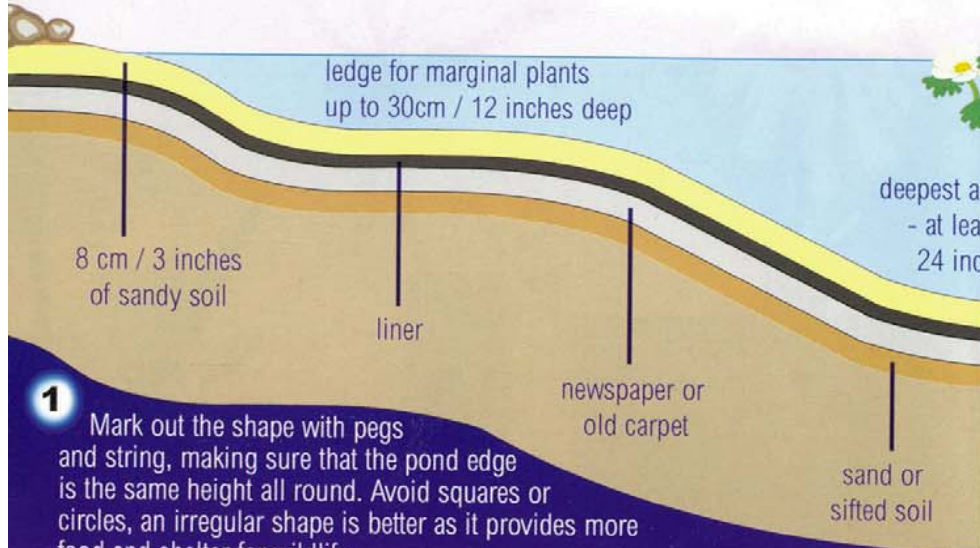
magic eye  
creative design  
tel: 07931 668930



# pond design



gently sloping bank with plants & stones for shelter

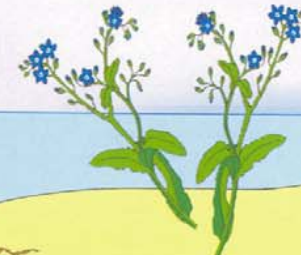


- 1** Mark out the shape with pegs and string, making sure that the pond edge is the same height all round. Avoid squares or circles, an irregular shape is better as it provides more food and shelter for wildlife.
- 2** Dig the hole and keep about a quarter of the soil. Keep any turf edges for later. Avoid steep slopes, gentle gradients are best.
- 3** To create a bed for your pond liner, use sand or sifted soil, with a layer of newspaper or old carpet on top. Make sure you remove any lumps, stones or sharp objects.
- 4** Place your liner carefully in the hole. Make sure there is plenty of overlap on the pond edges.
- 5** Cover the liner with a layer of sandy soil and secure the edges down by covering with soil and any turf that was removed earlier.

DEEP WATER PLANTS  
(OXYGENATORS)  
Hornwort  
Water Starwort  
Water Milfoil  
Water Crowfoot



MARSH GARDEN PLANTS  
Spearwort  
Sweet Scented Rush  
Marestalk



FLOATING-LEAVED PLANTS  
Arrowhead  
Broad-leaved Pondweed  
Native White Water-lily  
Water Soldier

MARSH GARDEN & EDGE PLANTS  
Brooklime  
Marsh Marigold  
Water Mint  
Water Forget-me-not  
Yellow Flag Iris

- 6** Fill your pond with water - rainwater is best but tapwater can be used. Make sure that the water trickles into the pond very slowly to avoid disturbing the sandy soil on the bottom. Allow your pond one or two days to settle before putting your plants in.

## marsh garden

- 7** To create a marsh garden follow the directions for the pond BUT you only need to dig out 6 - 8 inches (15 - 20 cm) for the deep section.
- 8** Use water carefully - any naturally damp area can be your marsh garden. Use spare bits of liner or even bin liners to make areas that hold water. Cover the liner with stones and soil, then finally add plants and water.

