How to build the perfect container pond

by Waterside Nursery
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What container can you use to make a miniature pond?

In reality, any container that holds water can be used as a miniature pond, whether it is metal, ceramic or as we offer, fibreglass. The advantage of using a fibreglass container pond is that you are able to choose from different sizes and many coloured finishes and it withstands the Winter cold.

See some examples of homemade container ponds to use as inspiration!

Or choose from our fibreglass container ponds and enjoy our wide choice of colours.

80cm Waterside Nursery Container Pond
60cm Waterside Nursery Container Pond
Step 2

Setting up your container

If you are going to use your own container, be sure to seal any drainage holes or cracks that water could leak through. Use a waterproof adhesive sealant and a small patch of pond liner.

**Depth of water**

Plants have different needs when it comes to the depths of water they like to live in. Because of this, a shelf like system is needed in any container.

In your own container pond, bricks or upturned pots can be used to create a shelf but the plants can blow over in the wind.

In our container ponds we use a specifically designed support grid that is tailored to our fibreglass containers.

Linda’s Top Tip

*A support grid is an easy way to keep the plants in the right depth of water and locating the baskets in the grid means they won’t blow over in the wind.*

When filling the container rain water is the best option as it is free from any chemicals or chlorine that may be present in tap water.

If you do not have any rainwater collected in a water butt don’t worry.

In the Spring/Summer care section later we show you Chlorine Guard – a product that will sort this out for you.
Planting your miniature pond

There is a wide range of aquatic plants available that can be planted in your container pond. These all have specific requirements, so be sure to cater for a plant’s depth and sunshine needs.

Sun/shade

Some aquatic plants like waterlilies and irises will need a lot of sunlight to ensure they grow and flower well. Others will grow well in shade, just be sure to always check the label!

Ideally, you’ll want to add from three types of pond plants for your new miniature pond.

1. **Oxygenating plants** for beneath the waters’ surface to use mineral salts and add oxygen to the water to keep it fresh. Most oxygenating plants like Hornwort can just be dropped (carefully placed!) into the container – so easy planting!

2. **Surface cover plants** to shade the water and give stability to the water temperature. Waterlilies for those delightful flowers floating on the sunny water or rafting plants like Forget Me Not for the shade.

3. Or use **Emergent pond plants** that will give you colour and height in different seasons and interesting plant form from foliage or flowers. These could be irises or grasses.

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**Linda’s Top Tip**

You may already have chosen the perfect spot for your container but ultimately its position must suit your choice of aquatic plants.
Continued...

**Planting collections**

For interest and colour for longer periods of the year from your container pond, try planting a mixture of plants with a succession of flowering times.

Here are just a few examples of planting schemes chosen as pre-prepared collections for different situations.

Some sunny, some shaded.

Following these pointers you should achieve a well balanced and great looking miniature pond to impress your friends!

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**Linda’s Top Tip**

*Always include an oxygenating plant in any container even though you can’t see it as they’re perfect for keeping the pond water healthy.*
Step 4

Spring/Summer Care

Always be sure that in warmer weather your container is topped up with water.

Add extract of barley straw weekly to help prevent the water from turning green in the Spring and Summer months. This will also help to prevent the build up of blanket weed and algae. Start the regular treatments in March.

Linda’s Top Tip

Rain water is preferable so every time you top up from a tap add Chlorine Guard, a product which helps to rid the water of excess chlorine.

Feed tabs are also a great way to boost the growth of the plants that produce flowers - especially waterlilies and Iris.

Feed any plants annually using aquatic feed tabs. Plants can also be fed throughout the summer by using Plant Food Plus - a liquid to be added to the water.

None of the recommended products above are harmful to any plants, wildlife or humans! Completely organic.
Final thought...

Thank you for taking the time to read our ‘How to’ guide on adding a container pond to your garden.

They are a great way of adding water and so encouraging wildlife into the smallest garden.

We feel there is a desire by people trying to add water to their small garden spaces—these containers can be set up on a balcony—and our aim is to make it as easy a task as possible.

We at Waterside Nursery hope that you will take the time to read our next guide too. We will publish “Maintaining your container pond in Autumn/Winter” later this year which will tell you what to keep an eye out for and how to solve any problems during those colder months.

Any feedback you can give us will be much appreciated.

Thanks again and happy planting!

Linda & Phil
Waterside Nursery

More about Waterside Nursery

Waterside Nursery is one of the UK’s leading online mail order services for aquatic plants. We are set apart from the rest by offering plants rooted into baskets, ready to be planted in your pond or container.

We have been growing plants in our Nursery in Leicestershire, UK since 1995 and have won 5 Chelsea Gold Medals for Aquatic plants since 2011.

We also offer a wide breadth of products aimed at making ponds exciting and fun including:

- Pond plants
- Waterlilies & surface cover plants
- Oxygenating pond plants
- British native pond plants
- Container ponds
- Planting schemes
- Pond products
- Moist & Bog plants
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