

# Make a wildlife pond

Many freshwater habitats in the countryside have been lost to make space for more farming and housing. Ponds support a diverse array of life, as vital spaces for wildlife to feed, breed, and drink.

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## Why make a wildlife pond?

Adding a pond to your Naturespace is a great way to support wildlife. A whole range of aquatic plants and invertebrates will come to live in your pond. Amphibians, like frogs and newts, will use this space to breed. Plus, lots of other species will visit to drink and feed.

Ponds do not need to be big to attract wildlife. They can even be created from a repurposed fountain or small container sunk into the ground. When filled with water and native aquatic plants, it will soon become a wildlife haven.

## How to get started with your wildlife pond

Before you buy a pond liner or container the first step is to choose where your pond could go. If under a tree, leaf fall can negatively impact the water quality, so in this case you would need to regularly skim the vegetation off the pond surface.



Ponds with various water depths are better for wildlife, so if you're digging it's good to add ledges. For a container pond placing rocks in the bottom can also work. Whichever type of pond it's important to have at least one gentle slope leading out so any wildlife that falls in can escape again.



Filling a pond with tap water adds lots of nutrients, usually this leads to algae covering the pond's surface. Try and fill from a water butt instead, or leave your tap water to stand for five days or more. Adding aquatic plants provides wildlife with food, shelter and potential breeding sites. Be careful not to add too much soil as you plant them in though, it is very hard to turn a mud bath back into a wildlife paradise.



There's lots you can do to maintain a healthy pond and other tips for setting one up. To find out more make sure that you head to the Naturehood platform.

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