

Pond In A Pot

 30 minutes- 2 hours

 Medium

 Moderate



A guide to creating a pond out of a recycled pot, helping wildlife on your doorstep.

Why?

A healthy garden pond will support a greater range of wildlife than any other feature in your garden. Either a small, shallow pebble pond, or upcycled washing up bowl will have an impact.

Even the smallest of ponds can be home to an interesting range of wildlife, including damsel and dragonflies, frogs and newts. Any pond can become a feeding ground for birds, hedgehogs and bats.

What do I need?

Ponds in pots aren't only cheap or free, they are easy to create and even easier to take care of. Mini ponds can be constructed from a range of containers! Get creative and upcycle. A washing-up bowl, large plant pot, or disused sink can all be repurposed as ponds, providing you make sure wildlife can get in and out with some rocks or logs.

When?

You can build a pond at any time during the year, but if you start in autumn or late winter, it will get established much quicker, ready for the flurry of activity in the spring.



Get going and follow these simple steps:

Step 1: Pick your pot.

Your upcycled pond will need a wide 'neck' so wildlife can get in and out. Other than that, the shape really doesn't matter!

Step 2: Choose a spot.

Your pond will want light, but not full sunlight all day. You can dig a hole and sink your container, or just have it sitting on top.

Step 3: Construct your pond.

Check that its watertight. If not, use a piece of pond liner. Add a layer of gravel and rocks. Use logs or stones to create a range of depths and a slope for creatures to climb in and out.

Step 4: Fill your pond.

Use rainwater as tap water contains chemicals.

Step 5: Start planting.

Be careful not to overcrowd your pond, you only need one or two plants.

Step 6. Watch as wildlife comes to visit,

Tell your neighbour to get one too! A network of small ponds in a neighbourhood could be even better than just one large one.

Pond Plants

Plants are an important part of your wildlife pond, oxygenating the water and providing food and shelter. Use UK native species where possible.

You can get these plants suitable for small ponds from your local garden centre:

- Miniature waterlily
- Lesser spearwort
- Starwort
- Flowering rush

Pond Alternatives

- Dig a shallow channel or hollow which will allow excess rainwater to pool. This will slow storm water run-off and add wildlife habitat to your garden.
- Fill saucers and bird baths with water for wildlife to have a drink or a splash; add marbles or stones to a shallow water dish to allow a perch for bees.
- Make a mini bog garden. Simply fill your container or space with soil and plant it with marginal plants such as marsh marigold, water forget-me-not, silver weed or gipsywort.

