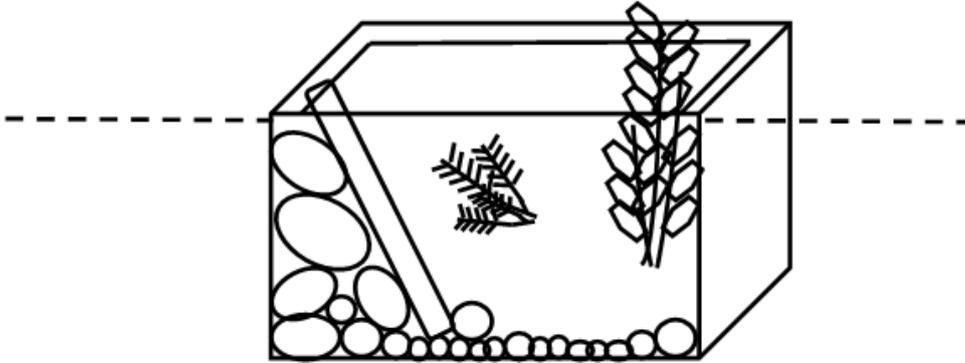


Helping Nature at Home

Making a Mini Pond – a great way to encourage wildlife into your garden in a small space



What you will need:

- A watertight bucket, container or washing up bowl (ideally a depth of 20-30cm)
- Stones, pebbles, bricks, sticks and logs
- Pond Plants
- Spade

Instructions:

1. Firstly, locate a suitable area in your garden for your pond. Ideally it should be in partial sunshine and near to shrubs and other plants that might provide protection for wildlife.
2. Once you have a site, then dig a hole in the ground into which you can sink your container into. The edges of the container should be at ground level so that animals can easily access the pond. If you are unable to dig your mini pond into the ground e.g., you have a patio, then ideally you should build up on the outside of your pond sloped sides using stones and logs. This will mean animals such as frogs can still easily access the pond.
3. Next place a layer of stones or pebbles at the bottom of your container. If your container has steep sides, it is important to build up an access ramp using stones, bricks, or logs. This will help any wildlife using the pond easily leave e.g., hedgehogs.
4. The next step is to fill your pond with water. It is important to fill it with rainwater since tap water contains chemicals that are harmful to pond life. A good way to do this is either to use the water from a water butt or to let the pond fill up naturally.
5. Once the pond is filled with water, it is time to put in a couple of aquatic plants which will provide valuable habitats for wildlife. It is best to try to use native pond plants and the wetlands trust has a great guide to pond plants <https://www.wwt.org.uk/discover-wetlands/gardening-for-wetlands/a-guide-to-native-pond-plants/>
6. Your pond is now ready for wildlife to make its home. Please remember to let wildlife colonise on its own. Do not accept plants or frog/toad spawn from other ponds as this can spread diseases harmful to wildlife.