

# Installing a Pond Liner Step-by-Step

This is the most popular pond construction method. A liner offers much greater flexibility for design than any other means of pond construction, and can be easily achieved by any practical home gardener.

The pond should be constructed on a level site. Mark out the area of the intended excavation with a length of hose-pipe or rope. Ensure that the curves of the excavation are smooth as this aids the crease-free installation of the liner and makes for easier maintenance later.



Excavate the pond evenly down to the depth of the marginal shelves. These must be deep enough to accommodate a marginal planting basket. Then excavate the full depth of the pond, digging down from the marginal shelves to create the deepest area of the pond.

Once the excavation is complete, level off the floor of the pond. Remove any stones or other sharp objects that may puncture the liner. When stones are a problem the soil is likely to become unstable. In such circumstances a pre-formed pond is a better option.





It is vital that the marginal shelves as well as the edge of the pond is level from side to side and end to end. If the pond is not level, then the liner will become exposed in the higher areas, while there is a likelihood of water spilling over the lower edges and flooding the surrounding ground.

Place a protective underlay into the excavation, moulding it to the shape of the hole. This acts as cushion and prevents stones and any other sharp objects from puncturing the liner. Thick wads of dampened newspaper or pieces of old carpet are cheaper alternatives.



Dampen the underlay so that it clings accurately to the shape of the excavation. This makes it easier to install the pond liner. The underlay is then smoothly contoured and there is little chance of it causing wrinkles beneath the liner.

Spread the pond liner out in the sun before installation. This makes it more malleable and easier to mould to the contours of the pond. Make sure that it is positioned so that there is an adequate overlap all round before installation begins.





Smooth the liner to the contours of the excavation, working from the floor in the centre outwards, removing as many creases as possible. Where there are awkward angles or corners, make a single bold fold, rather than several smaller ones.

Add water from a hose-pipe. As the water level rises and presses the liner to the wall of the excavation, smooth out the creases as far as possible. Remember that if the pond is filling quicker than the creases can be eliminated that the water can be turned off while the work continues.



Once the pond has been filled, the edge of the liner should be trimmed and an edging provided.