



# HOW TO INSTALL YOUR GARDEN POND

## CONGRATULATIONS!

By installing a pond in your garden, you are creating a miniature ecosystem that offers a new safe habitat to many different plants and animals along with a perfect tranquil atmosphere for you to relax & enjoy. This leaflet will help you to get the most out of your pond by making installation easier. Please read the following before you start, to ensure a low maintenance garden feature is achieved.

## INSTALLATION GUIDELINES

### STEP 1 – DIGGING THE HOLE

Decide the size, shape and position of your pond, then peg the layout or use the garden hose. Dig your pond out, taking care to keep the top of the pond level. It is important to remove all roots, stones and noxious weeds that may damage the liner.

### STEP 2 – LAYING OF THE POND LINER

Drape the liner loosely into the hole, leaving an even overlap of about 20cm around the edge. You will need to temporarily anchor the edges with heavy objects i.e. rocks, pavers, or bricks. Once your pond liner is secure, commence filling it with water.

### STEP 3 – THE POND IS FILLED

As the pond fills, ease the anchors off the edges of the liner. The weight of the water will make the liner fit neatly into the hole. Most of the creases will disappear, but this will depend on the shape of the pond.

Sharp curves need to be rounded off to minimise creasing. Some creases may have to be removed by stretching the liner or gathering them into one larger crease. The pond plants will cover the rest.

### STEP 4 – SECURE THE LINER

Once the pond is filled, secure a 'flap' of approximately 20cm by digging a shallow trench around the pond, then burying the surplus.

### STEP 5 – THE FINISHED POND

To finish the pond, use slate, rocks or stone paving around the edge. If using rocks, it is wise to use large river pebbles or mortar to fill between them, so the edge of the liner is completely covered.

Your pond's ecological system is now ready to be established. Remember, it is important that the water level of the pond remains at a minimum depth of 36cm to sustain plant life.

For further information on water plants & pond ecology, consult your local plant specialist.

**WARRANTY:** Five year pro rata warranty against faulty workmanship.

**ABGAL PTY LTD** Tel: 1800 077 533  
us@abgal.com.au www.abgal.com.au  
ESTABLISHED SINCE 1976

Quality Assured Company AS/NZS ISO 9001:2000



# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## Where should I build my Garden Pond?

Choose a sunny position that's not under trees. Trees tend to reduce the amount of sunlight reaching your pond plus they drop vegetation. By allowing sunlight to reach the pond, your waterlilies will develop more flowers and the plant life will flourish.

It is important to select a site that is free from weeds, otherwise these may infest your pond once it is established. We recommend that you take special care to remove all 'nut grass' and 'onion weed' as these forms of vegetation can grow through your pond liner. Should you treat the area for these weeds, carefully follow the directions of the product you use.

But most importantly...select a position where you will enjoy the beauty & tranquillity that your garden pond will create.

## How do I create that perfect shape?

Use your creative flair to create the perfect shape that suits your environment. ABGAL's flexible liner allows any pond shape to be constructed; however simple curves will reduce the number of creases in the liner. Try to avoid dish shaped ponds, as a flat base is required for positioning the pump and water plants.

The depth of the pond needs to be a minimum of 36cm and dig your edges at approximately a 20 degree angle to give support to the side walls. A shelf may be included for 'emergent' or 'bog' plants. The shelf should ideally measure about 25cm wide and be about 22cm below the water level.

## Which water plants should I choose?

The waterlily is very easy to grow and there are many varieties to choose from, including fragrant and semi-tropical. Waterlilies flower profusely from December to May. Approximately 70% of the surface area should be covered with plant life to maintain ecology.

Oxygenating plants are the most important water plant for a pond as they purify the fish's waste, use up the nutrients in the water and prevent algae from overgrowing. Sunlight encourages algae growth which is why we recommend you grow a 'forest' of oxygenators.

## How do I introduce fish successfully?

Once the plant-life in the pond has been established, you may wish to introduce fish and water snails. Water snails are important for cleaning up rotting vegetation and algae on plants and the number of fish will depend on the pond size. Ask your local aquarium retailer for assistance.

Before you introduce any fish, you will need to test that the pH level of the water is suitable. The ideal pH level is between 7.0 and 7.5, any other reading should be adjusted accordingly. A pH test kit should be readily available from an aquarium or pool retailer.

## When should I clean my pond?

With the right mix of aquatic and plant life, you should only need to clean your pond out every 3 - 5 years. Using a fountain or filtration system is recommended but not essential. Should you purchase a filtration system it is recommended that you clean out the pad inside the filter box weekly.

We recommend you follow these instructions carefully, so that you may have many years of pleasure and tranquillity with your ABGAL Garden Pond.

