

How to Build an Ecosystem Pond

Do it the easy way, 14 simple steps



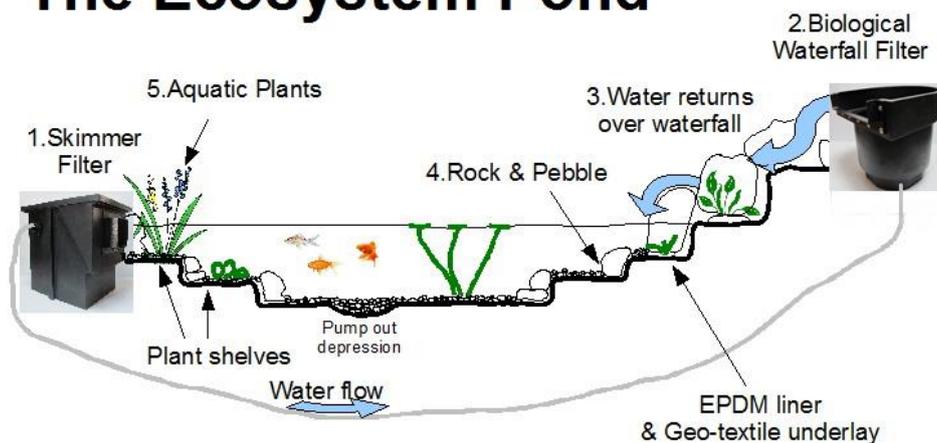
Inspired by Nature,
Created by Us!

Ecosystem Pond Design

An ecosystem pond needs plants so we build plant shelves into the pond. Shallow shelves for marginal plants and deeper shelves for the plants that prefer more water above them. This means the plants can be planted directly into the pond giving a much more natural look and the root system will grow out through the gravel in the bottom which will help clean up waste and keep the pond in balance. Any plants that are invasive can be left in their baskets and inserted into plant pockets. This will help keep them under control.

This design is also very safe for small children because if a child was to slip into the pond the edges are very shallow and they wouldn't drop straight into deep water.

The Ecosystem Pond



1. Skimmer filter removes leaves & debris before they sink and create sludge.
2. Biological waterfall filter where beneficial bacteria treat the water.
3. Waterfall introduces dissolved oxygen into the water.
4. Rock & pebble create surface area for additional beneficial bacteria.
5. Aquatic plants take up nutrients & toxins from the water.

Step 1: Set out the pond using a garden hose.

Step 2: Sit the skimmer filter & biological waterfall filter in position.



Using spray paint mark out the pond & filters



Step 3: Connect the pipe to the waterfall filter & bury the pipe as you dig the pond down to the first plant shelf level (approx. 200 mm deep)



Step 4: Set up the skimmer filter & connect the pipe to it.



Step 5: Mark out the next level & dig out using the soil to form the raised berm around the waterfall.



If required mark out and dig the final level.

Note: Keep walls vertical and shelves flat & level.



Step 6: Create plant pockets & a pump out depression.

Always create at least one fish cave or tunnel.



Step 7: Install underlay and EPDM liner.



Step 8: Start rocking the pond in. Notice the underlay under the large rocks.



Pond fully rocked



Step 9: Wash down and foam in the waterfall spillways with Black Waterfall Foam.



Step 10: Place river pebble on the shelves & bottom of the pond.



Step 11: Wash down and pump out the dirty water.



Step 12: Fill the pond & start the waterfall.



Step 13: Once full & running, trim the liner & hide with pebble and rock.

Step 14: Finally plant aquatic plants throughout the pond.



Completed Ecosystem Pond



You can see a full instructional video on our website at

www.aquaticlifestyles.co.nz

Aquatic Lifestyles, 32 Belk Rd, Tauranga. Ph 027 4751336 anytime.