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Homeowners often expand their living spaces by building open rooms and gardens. Garden and landscape specialists say that gardens should stimulate all senses: sight, smell, hearing, taste and touch. The principles of feng shui require the inclusion of vital, energy-saving elements of earth, fire, wood, metal and water. Most of these features occur naturally outdoors, and you may have already added those that aren't in your backyard in the form of a grill (fire and metal). But sound is one of the easiest feelings to ignore when planning your garden, and if you have a house on the waterfront or a stream running through your property, water is probably not a natural feature in your outdoor living space. How can you fill these voids in your garden world? By bringing both sound and water to your home with a pond. Deciding where to build your pond is one of the most critical decisions you will make. To facilitate this decision a bit, determine where you can't put the pond. Ask your utility companies to mark the location of underground power lines, cable, natural gas and water. You will also need to find sewer or septic drainage lines since you don't want to dig into them. Advertisements from areas remaining accessible will not all be suitable for the pond. Low-lying areas are flooded during heavy rains, and the pond will suffer from contamination with lawn fertilizers or herbicides as a result of rains and regular watering. Avoid areas with heavy wood cover - digging there is difficult and damaging trees. Also, when the leaves fall in the fall, they will contaminate your pond. Finally, the site should be big enough for the pond you want to build. Ideally, your pond will be at ground level with stable soil, next to sources of electricity and water, in the right combination of sun and shade, and located where you can always enjoy it. Now that you've figured out where your pond will go, let's take a look at the different variety of ponds you can build. There are different kinds of ponds just like there are different types of shrubs. One species of bush blocks unsightly species; Another species attracts butterflies. Ponds can be noisy, calm or bright with wildlife. They can support flashing koi or aromatic water flowers. Think about what you like the most - fish, flowers, both? Here are some general guidelines for koi ponds and water gardens: Advertising Koi Ponds need a large surface area and a depth of 3 to 4 feet (0.9 to 1.2 meters) in a mild climate source: Lowe's, Barber. If you live in a very cold climate and want to overwinter fish in a pond, you need to include a section of the pond that is deep enough to give the fish 12 to 16 inches (30.5 to 40.6 centimeters) of water below Layer source: Water Garden. Koi ponds require a pump and filter system to remove fish waste and keep water clean and healthy. They usually don't have because koi is and otherwise destroy them, creating pollution of the pond. Koi ponds need shade to keep the fish cool and to prevent algae growth. Incorporating current into the water by spreading it through a creek or waterfall makes the fish exercise and stay healthy. In the absence of plants, such circulation is necessary for oxygenation (adding oxygen) to the water. Water gardens include aquatic plants and flowers, and can include spraying with goldfish. Plants require several hours of sun every day to thrive and produce blooms. Water gardens can be small and need only 18 to 24 inches (45.7 to 61 centimeters) depth (source: Lowe, Barber). If you have the perfect balance between fish and plants, you may not need a pump or filter system. Water plants do not like to be disturbed, so any current or tributary from a waterfall or fountain should be gentle. The style comes into play further. Is your home and landscaping formal or informal? Water objects in a formal setting are usually geometric: square, rectangular, oval, L-shaped or round. In an informal or natural setting, ponds may be more irregular. Check out water facilities in local botanical gardens, garden tours and pond specialty shops for inspiration. Other things to consider are your budget and the time and effort you want to put in building and maintaining your pond. Small ponds require additional maintenance. Larger ponds require more skill to build. Keep in mind that if you decide to get your feet wet with a small pond at first, you can always expand later by adding ponds and connecting waterways. On the next page we'll see what tools and materials you need to build your pond. Photo: istockphoto.comWater brings a touch of charm, turning an ordinary landscape into something magical. Whether you want to watch the pool alive with colorful fish or the long soothing gurgling of the fountain, you will find the addition of a garden pond to be an unprecedented treat. But putting one in involves more than digging a hole and filling it out of a hose. Read on for a primer on everything from the process of how to build a pond and maintain it musts to the fine dot of the pond decor. You'll be all set to start creating a relaxing retreat in your backyard that you are sure to enjoy for years to come. Know the rules Contact your local building authority to see if you need permission to put in the pond. Some communities have put their local codes online, but if you need permission, you will probably have to visit your local offices in person to get it. Garden ponds less than two feet deep may be exempt from local codes, but if Want to go deeper, pool codes can apply. Also keep in mind that young children can easily drown even in a shallow pond, so you may be required to install extra fencing to keep inquisitive neighborhood children. Decisions vary community community and, depending on the size of your pond, you may be subject to additional rules. And if you have a homeowners association (HOA), you may have to apply to the council for permission. You will also have to contact your local utility companies to make sure you won't hit the buried lines. Call Dig Safe (811) to request that utility representatives come out and mark the location of their lines so you don't face any problems when you dig. This is a free service and utility companies are happy to go out and mark their lines to avoid accidents. Photo: istockphoto.comLearn About Liners Garden Ponds are equipped with either flexible or rigid liners. Flexible earbuds form any shape you like, and they're relatively affordable, starting at \$50 for an inexpensive 7' x 10' flexible polyvinyl chloride (PVC) liner and running as much as \$300 for a 15' x 20' heavy rubber liner. The price increases with the thickness as well as the size of the liner and the thicker version are desirable as they are less prone to puncture. The thickness is measured in millimeters (mils) and will appear on the label of the liner. Standard flexible earbuds from 12mils to 45mils thick. When assembling materials, keep in mind that water garden companies tend to carry thicker liners than DIY stores. Puncture-resistant hard liners made of molded fiberglass or hard PVC come in forrmed shapes, with prices starting at less than \$50 for a few hundred dollars for a larger model. Custom-designed concrete ponds are also available for areas with little to no movement of soil, but are not recommended for high clay patches that cause soil movement that can crack concrete. Concrete ponds are quite expensive: the 5' x 5' model can run for more than \$650 just for the basic shell design, and since the concrete ponds must be professionally installed, the cost will increase significantly. Photo: istockphoto.comConsider Style and Landscape Spend some time reflecting on the vibe of your pond, and how you'll incorporate it into your courtyard as a welcoming focal point. After all, the feeling of a minimalist garden of water of zen is very different from the formal Italian pond with the lion's head of the fountain in its center. Consider the proportions as well: too small a pond can get lost in a great landscape, but one that is too big is bound to crush your yard. Aside from the pond itself, you want to plan to view/sitting the area from which to best admire it. Some aquatic plants, such as lily pads, require sunlight, while fish need a small shade to make sure the water is not too warm. If your yard does not offer You can provide it by adding trellises along the pond, tall plants around the perimeter, and/or aquatic plants on on In pumps and filters you probably want to install a water pump to circulate water and prevent stagnation. By keeping the water moving, you will discourage mosquitoes from turning your pond into a feeding point. The pumps can be worked out in the structure of the pond and are included in fountains and waterfalls. And if you'll add fish, you'll want a filter to help keep the water clean and control the algae (see maintenance section for more help in fighting green material!). Filters and pumps can be added after the pond is in place and disguised with plants or stones. Understand the construction process of having your pond professionally installed can add a few hundred to several thousand dollars to the final cost, depending on the size and complexity of the project. But, you can save some money and add your personal touch following these guidelines on how to build a pond. Excavation is the first step, and while you can certainly dig a hole for a small pond with a standard shovel, consider renting a small excavation machine known as a skid to send from a construction rental store for about \$100 to \$150 a day. Then you cover the bottom of the hole with sand to smooth the surface and spread the liner from above. Strict liners require sand filling on the outer edges to remove air voids. The next step is to place pumps, filters or water lighting and then add decorative edging around the top of the pond. Most pond equipment connects into the outer power socket, and then the strings camouflage landscaping. If the external outlet is not available, the electrician can install it for you. Concrete pond is not a DIY job. This requires the contractor to unearh the hole, line it with a steel-strengthening mesh, and then, through a pressure hose, applies a gunite or shotcrete that is blown onto a mesh to form a solid, unified surface of the pond. Photo: istockphoto.comMake Course, maintain with garden ponds come algae that can turn water green, especially in spring when it blooms. Algae is a vital part of a balanced pond system, but too much can lead to dark, damp water. A good filter will have a great relationship with keeping the algae under control; it can also be manually removed. (Grabbing and pulling slimy strands and lumps is a icky casual work-quality rubber gloves recommended!) Algae can be added as well, if desired, but if you have fish, be sure to choose a fish of a safe variety and use only as a directional. Clean pond filters once a month, or more often if your pond is prone to intense algae growth or if you have fish. A clogged filter can cause the pumping engine to burn out. If the water is not where you live, you may be able to overwinter some species of fish and aquatic plants (check with an aquarium expert to make sure). In addition, you can bring fish and plants indoors and care for them in the aquarium during the cold season. Careful spring cleaning of the pond is usually sufficient throughout the year. Drain the pond and spray the sides and bottom with a water hose, if necessary, clean the nylon brush to remove heavy algae deposits. Then check the clean and service pumps and filters, according to the manufacturer's specifications, to make sure everything is in order for the upcoming season. Season. over and under the pond activities. over and under the pond pdf. over and under the pond paperback. over and under the pond amazon. over and under the pond you tube. over and under the pond read aloud. over and under the pond by kate messner. over and under the pond summary

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