

# Setting up your Pond

Learn more  
from the team  
at Kellyville Pets

Ponds and water features will add charm and bring the atmosphere of the great outdoors to your own backyard.

## Safety First

Any area containing water can be dangerous to small children. Please ensure that you consider Child Safety when planning your new pond.

## Positioning your Pond

This is an important factor to consider when introducing a pond or water feature to your garden. Ponds that are situated in full or too much sunlight will suffer ongoing problems with algae. It is a good idea to position your pond in an area that is partly shaded. This will prevent algae from dominating the pond but still allow sunlight to reach pond plants and lilies. The use of a shade cloth is a great way to shade your pond. Trees will no doubt drop leaves and even branches into your pond so the shade cloth may be an alternative worth considering.

## Suitable Fish for the Pond

Traditionally the only fish considered to be suitable for outdoor ponds was the Koi. Koi grow rather large, approx 2 foot long. The advantage to keeping Koi in the pond is that they are a very hardy, robust fish that will comfortably tolerate Australia's changing climate. The down side is that they are rather aggressive. They can be aggressive toward other species of fish and destructive to plant life.

Some other suitable pond fish that are not so aggressive are Comet and Shubunkin Goldfish. These fish are available in a variety of colours and will tolerate pond conditions.

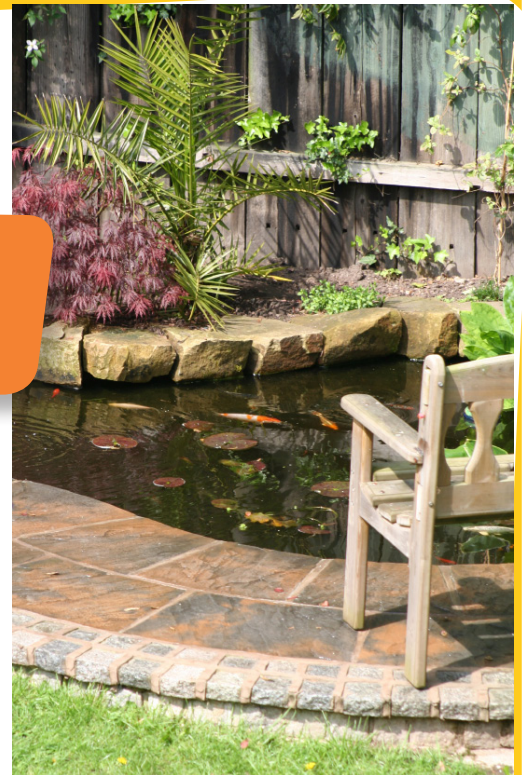
## Pond Plants and Water Lilies

Flowering Water Lilies and Water Iris's are a beautiful sight to see during the warmer months. It is recommended to add plants to the pond before adding the first fish. Plants will give the fish protection from both the harsh summer sun and from local predators like domestic cats and wild birds. At times the fish will also feed from the plants to satisfy their dietary requirements.

Live plants in the pond will assist in filtration. The plants consume Carbon Dioxide and in turn produce Oxygen, a process known as photosynthesis. During this the plants will also break down Nitrates that will otherwise build up in the pond.

## Land Plants Surrounding the Pond:

Be careful when planting plants around the pond that they do not overhang the pond too much. They may drop sap, berries or foliage into the pond. It is also wise to avoid using fertilisers in the plants surrounding the pond. During times of heavy rain fertiliser may run off into the pond. This will lead to severe algae outbreaks and can put the health of your pond fish in jeopardy.



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## Getting Started:

When you've got your pond into position, filters running and planting complete, it's time to take the next step. There are a few more things to check for prior to introducing fish to your pond. These are;

1. Ensure your pH is adjusted and stable. This can be achieved through the use of a basic pH test kit and adjusted using acid and/or alkaline buffers.
2. Eliminate harmful elements found in tap water from your pond. This can be done using a water conditioner that will remove Chlorine and Chloramine, as well as provide a protective slime coating for the fish.

## Helpful Hints

- Using floating pellets will reduce excess waste in the pond. Excess floating food can be easily removed with a net.
- Ponds with more plants and less fish will require less filtration, but still require adequate water turnover.
- Heavy duty Rubber Liner is available for those who choose to design their own shape pond.
- Wait at least one week before introducing your first fish to the pond. Plants however, can be added on the first day.
- Avoid putting too many fish in your pond too soon after setting it up. It takes time for your pond's ecosystem to establish itself enough to control fish waste and excess food. One or two small fish should be enough to start your pond and then gradually adding a couple of fish at a time is always recommended.



**We at Kellyville Pets hope this information will help you to enjoy your pond right from day one. Please feel free to contact our expert aquarium consultants if you have any questions.**

Further information on testing, filtration, fish and much more is available from the team at Kellyville Pets.

**At Kellyville Pets, we encourage responsible pet ownership.**

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