

# Water Garden

Lap Pond

**1 LEVEL**

### 1 LEVEL KIT CONTAINS:

- 8 x Composite Timbers 4' Straight
- 16 x Stacking Brackets
- 8 x Anchor/Ground Level Serrated Stakes
- 32 x Plugs/Locking Nubs
- 8 x Caps
- 1 x Rubber Liner
- 1 x Underlayment
- 1 x Water Pump
- 1 x Pump Tubing

### Required Tools:

- Shovel
- Levelling tool
- Hammer

### Recommended Tools:

- Pond Safe Foam Sealant
- Grading Rake

**IMPORTANT: READ ALL INSTRUCTIONS BEFORE STARTING YOUR BUILD!**



### 2 LEVEL KIT CONTAINS:

- 16 x Composite Timbers 4' Straight
- 32 x Stacking Brackets
- 8 x Stacking Stakes (\*\*See Note Below)
- 8 x Anchor/Ground Level Serrated Stakes
- 64 x Plugs/Locking Nubs
- 8 x Caps
- 1 x Rubber Liner
- 1 x Underlayment
- 1 x Water Pump
- 1 x Pump Tubing

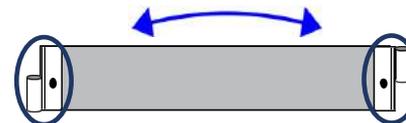
## ASSEMBLY INSTRUCTIONS – Building the Frame



### STEP 1:

Assemble the curved timbers by sliding one end of the timber into the channel end or one of the brackets. Use plugs to lock the bracket in place.

Repeat this process on the other end of the timber flipping the bracket in the opposite direction. (see example). **Repeat for all remaining straight timbers.**



## PARTS IDENTIFICATION



### \*\*NOTE

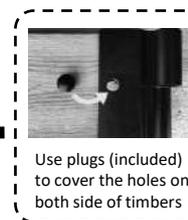
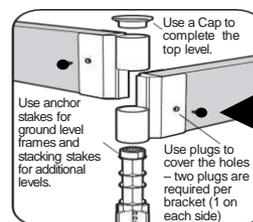
Stacking stakes should only be used when stacking boards for water garden application.

**ONLY** Stacking Stakes can stack!

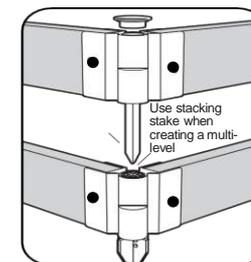
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## How the Joints Work



Use plugs (included) to cover the holes on both side of timbers



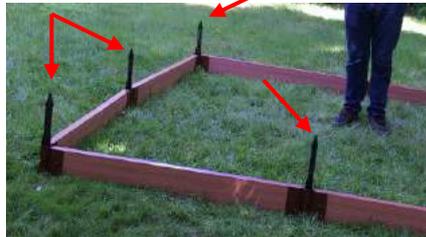
**STEP 2.**

Prepare your pond area to be as level as possible. The frame can also be dug into a slope if need be.

**Note:** There will be additional opportunities to level the frame once it is built.

**STEP 3.**

Layout the first layer of your pond as shown below. Insert your anchor stakes into the joints so the serrated spike is facing up (see example). This will allow you to level the pond frame and adjust the shape of your pond before driving the stakes into the ground.



**STEP 4.**

Level your pond frame using a line level or a long level tool that can go across the entire length of the pond frame. Level at several cross sections to level all boards of the frame



**STEP 4a.**

Use flat stones or soil to shim parts of the edging that needs to rise or dig under areas of edging that need to be lowered. If you are using stones to level make sure to fill in the gaps under your boards with soil later. This will prevent water from running under your liner when it rains.



**STEP 5.**

Flip your anchor stakes around and hammer them into the ground until they are flush with the top of the bracket.

**Note:** If you encounter a point in the ground that you cannot hammer through, remove the stake, and cut it down to size until it can be hammered flush with the bracket.

**STEP 6.**

Once again, check the level of your pond edge and make any adjustments as needed.

**STEP 7. (Skip if only 1 Level is being installed)**

Stack the additional layers onto your pond frame.



**STEP 8.**

Attach finishing caps on top of each joint of the pond.



## ASSEMBLY INSTRUCTIONS - Digging your Pond and Lining

### STEP 1.

Dig out your pond soil and place a few feet away from your ponds edge. This soil can be used up against your pond edge to taper the grade away from your pond.

**Note:** Consider leaving dirt shelves in your pond where stones and aquatic plants can sit.

### STEP 2.

Measure the depth of your pond to ensure you did not dig deeper than the liner you purchased can cover. If you have dug too deep, fill in the hole with some soil to bring the level up.

### STEP 3.

Mold the piece of underlayment included in your kit to the frame of the pond. This layer will protect your pond liner from stones or roots that may emerge over time.



### STEP 4.

Roll up any excess underlayment to the pond edge or trim it to size AFTER you have added water.

**Note:** Trimming underlayment to size before adding water can result in your underlayment being pulled and not covering certain areas.

### STEP 5.

Place the pond liner over the underlayment, molding it to your frame. Allow the liner to go over the boards of the pond wall.

**Note:** It is important to eyeball an equal amount of liner on all sides on the pond. Allow for about 12" of liner over your pond edge. This will give enough surface area for soil to pin the liner down.

### STEP 6.

Fold any excess liner up to the pond edge or cut liner to pond size after filling with water. When cutting your liner, make sure to leave enough to allow it to drape completely over the outside pond wall.

**Note:** Do not make cuts before filling with water.

### STEP 7.

As you are molding the liner to the frame, attempt to remove as many folds as possible.

### STEP 8.

Fill your pond and adjust the liner if needed while the weight of the water is not too much. As the water fills up, pull your liner to eliminate any wrinkles that may still exist. Once the pond has been filled, the weight of the water will prevent these wrinkles from returning.

### STEP 9.

Follow your pump assembly instructions included in your pump box. Place your pump inside of your pond at the furthest point possible from your waterfall or fountain. This will maximize waterflow and filtration. Test how the water will flow over the rocks you have chosen by changing the position of the tubing while the water is running. Once satisfied, use rocks to keep the tubing in position.

## Landscape Design Suggestions

- Move your excess soil up to your pond edge and take care to pack soil under any areas of the edge and then taper your soil grade down from the pond edge. Raising your pond grade from the grade around will ensure lawn chemicals will not wash into your ponds water effecting the health of your fish and aquatic plants.
- If you are looking to reduce the amount of stone in your design, there are a few tricks you can do. The first is to use tall, dense leaved plants on either side of your waterfall instead of stone. The second is instead of using stones all around the edge of your pond, plant low creeping plants up against the pond frame so that plants grow up and over the lined edge. Sporadically found this will eliminate the necklace effect you often see in ponds and naturalize your landscape.
- Before digging my plants into the ground, I place them out where I want them while they are still in pots. I like to place my plants out first and then place key large stones in place to get a good idea of where I want things before digging in my plants and stones.
- Once you like your placement, set your plants and dig your primary focal stones partly in the soil to create a more natural look.
- My focal stones are sometimes placed in different manners to create a mini mountain scene or a well-placed stone jutting into the pond.
- After my plants and primary focal stones are in place, I use a combination of mulch and 2-3 different size stones or pebbles to create a natural look. I try not to over think the placements of my secondary smaller stones, starting with the largest stones first then graduating down to the smaller stones.

See our waterfall building video on YouTube.com/Frame It All Videos for a visual guide on how to construct your waterfall feature!

**Direct Link:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IC9zbXTbkag>