

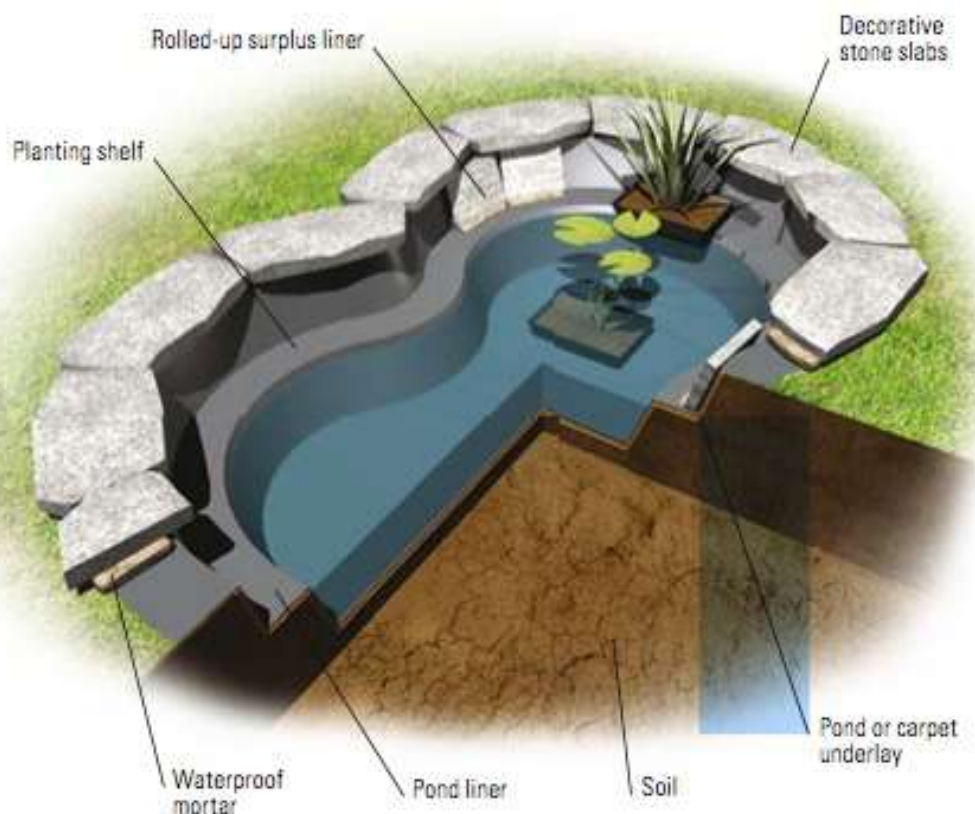
MAKING A POND

Lecture 8

Designing a pond with a flexible PVC liner, rather than a rigid preformed type, allows you to create a feature of almost any size and shape. To work out how much liner you need, add twice the depth of the proposed pond to its maximum length plus the width. Choose somewhere sheltered and sunny for your water feature, avoiding heavy shade under trees.

YOU WILL NEED

Garden hose	Pond or carpet underlay	Sharp knife
Spade	Flexible pond liner	Decorative stone slabs
Pickax	Waterproof mortar, bucket, trowel	
Level/plank		
Sand		



DIGGING AN INFORMAL POND



1- Use a hose to mark the outline of the pond. Aim for a curved, natural shape without any sharp corners. To prevent it freezing solid in winter, a section of the pond must be at least 18 in (45 cm) deep.



2- Before you start digging, skim off any sod for reuse elsewhere. Keep the fertile topsoil (which you can also reuse) separate from the subsoil. Loosen compacted subsoil with a pickax.



3- Dig out the pond to a depth of 18 in (45 cm). Make the sides gently sloping. Leave a shelf 12–18 in (30–45 cm) wide around the edge, then dig out the center to a further depth of 18 in (45 cm).



4- Use a level placed on a straight piece of wood to check that the ground around the top of the pond is level. Remove any loose soil and all large or sharp stones from the sides and bottom of the pond.

LINING AND EDGING



5- To protect the liner, line the sides and base of the pond with pond underlay. If using old carpet underlay, beware stray tacks. On stony soils, spread a 2 in (5 cm) layer of sand over the base first.



6-Center the liner over the hole, letting it slide down under its own weight into the base. Leaving plenty of surplus around the rim, pleat the liner to help fit it to the shape of the pond. Fill with water.



7-When the pond is full, trim the surplus liner leaving 18 in (45 cm) around the rim. Pleat the excess liner so it lies flat and bury the edges in the ground. Lay a bed of waterproof mortar for the edging stones.



8-Bed the edging stones into the mortar, overhanging them by 2 in (5 cm) to hide the liner. When positioning vertical stones, stand them on a piece of rolled-up surplus liner to protect the liner from being worn.



PLANTING UP

Wait a week for the mortar to set before placing water lilies on the bottom of the pond and marginals on the shelf.

MAKING A RILL

A rill or channel of water adds light and movement to a garden. Employ a qualified electrician to run a power supply for you.

YOU WILL NEED

Pegs and string Spade Sand Level

Plastic reservoir Plastic liner Sharp knife Bricks Waterproof mortar

Submersible pump, flexible pipe, filter Gravel, cobbles Permeable fabric, Metal grille



1-Clear and level the site. Mark out the length and width of the rill with pegs and string. Dig out the area to a depth of 6–8 in (15–20 cm). Cut a shallow shelf all around the rill for the brick edging.



2-Line the rill with sand, compacting it with a piece of wood. Use a level to check the base is flat. Dig a hole at one end and insert the reservoir—check that the rim is level with the base of the rill.



3-Line the rill with the liner, smoothing out any creases. Trim the liner at the reservoir end so that it drapes over the rim. Leave 8 in (20 cm) surplus along the other three sides.



4-Edge the rill with bricks on three sides (not the reservoir end). Bed bricks on a 1 in (2 cm) layer of waterproof mortar, making sure that it doesn't fall into the rill. Mortar between the bricks.



5-Place the pump in the reservoir. Push the pipe on to the pump outlet, run the pipe along the length of the rill, and cut it to fit at the far end. Fit a filter on the free end of the pipe to prevent blockages.



6-Cover over the pipe in the rill with a level bed of gravel. Place a metal grille over the reservoir and top with cobbles. If you sit them on a sheet of permeable fabric it will stop debris falling into the water.



FINISHING TOUCHES

Fill the reservoir with water, prime the pump, and adjust the flow according to manufacturer's instructions. Slate chips make an attractive edging material.