



Thinking of Building a Pond?

A few things you should know before you dig.

Constructing a pond at first thought may seem quite simple, dig a hole in a wet area, and watch it fill. In fact, it is more complicated than most people realize. Building a pond requires research and planning, if it is to be built right. A poorly designed pond will bring years of frustration before people even realize that changes need to be made to its' design, unfortunately many people "give up" on their pond. This is an informational guide for people thinking about constructing a pond, or repairing an existing pond. If you want a pond that holds water, is clear of algae, cattails, emergent weeds, and actually keeps trout alive, this is the guide for you.

The first mistake people make when building a pond is, not knowing the laws that may pertain to their situation. Avoid this potentially costly mistake! Contact your Soil & Water Conservation District, and Department of Environmental Protection for information on the project you are about to undertake. The second mistake is not hiring a qualified contractor. A poorly constructed pond can leak, or in some cases, burst. Knowledge of the types of soils where you plan to build is necessary in pond construction. The placement of clay is critical in sealing your pond, the removal of branches, twigs, and grass is also important. Buried debris in the banks of your pond will, over time, develop into leaks. Keeping top-soil and organic matter out of your pond and pond banks is necessary to minimize algae & weeds. Another frequent mistake is to design a pond to capture surface water run-off. Storm water run-off will not 'refresh' your pond and fish. The fact is run-off is *LOADED* with nutrients, nutrients that only weeds & nuisance algae can use. Design your pond with a berm around the perimeter to divert all runoff. This will not only keep nutrients out of the pond, it will also protect your pond from breaching during a long rainstorm event. The inner slope of the pond should be steep, and begin to level at the point where the water will be four feet deep. This will minimize weed and cattail growth. Pond depth should be no less than eight feet, as a deeper pond will provide fish with cooler water, and protection from avian and mammalian predators. Gravel beds

for spawning are optimal and success, is at best, limited. The reason being is that a pond is a 'limited environment', and self-sustenance almost never happens. Shade trees around your pond are a matter of preference. Shady areas in a pond is good, but also remember that trees will most certainly attract fish eating birds to perch, and leaves falling into your pond will add nutrients for weeds and algae. These are just a few pointers you can use should you decide to dig.

If you would like more information pertaining ponds, or are interested in our design services, please call and we will gladly provide you with a quote. A pond is an investment to your property, so take the time to build it right the first time.