

Water gardens and water features

Water can help bring a tranquil and calming feeling to your garden space. If you have a water feature idea in mind we would be happy to incorporate that into the design of your garden, be it a pond or a fountain we are here to translate your ideas and dreams into reality.

No garden is too small for water. You don't need to install a pond; any water-tight vessel can be transformed into a water garden. Appealing options include kettles, urns, glazed pots, and stone troughs. Millstones make attractive fountains, and there are many distinctive carved-stone and concrete fountains and basins, available from art galleries, specialty garden shops, architectural salvage centres, and even antique shops.

Water also creates opportunities for a new kind of gardening with a specific group of plants—aquatics. Even the smallest container can be filled with decorative water plants like sweet flag (*Acorus gramineus*) and mosquito ferns (*Azolla* spp.). In larger basins or ponds, add drama with colourful tropical's like elephant ears (*Colocasia esculenta*), swamp lilies (*Crinum* spp.), and cannas (*Canna* spp.), as well as traditional water plants such as irises, water lilies, spike rushes (*Equisetum* spp.), and hardy canna (*Thalia dealbata*).

Another benefit of water gardening is that wildlife flocks to water like obsessed gardeners to a rare-plant sale. Dragonflies dart through the garden on gossamer wings, and frogs lull you to sleep with their curious serenade.

You can use your water feature as a focal point in a garden bed, or at the end of a vista. Place a basin where you can view it from a window, surrounded with contrasting plant forms. Try a simple reservoir of still water or add a bubbler for sound.

The range of garden pond pumps available is quite large, but here are a few points we would consider when you designing your garden pond. If it's your aim to run a filter and a fountain then we would work out whether or not the pond pump will be powerful enough to supply the amounts of water to support both of them adequately, if not your garden pond fountain will look slightly weak. In this scenario we would use two garden pond pumps, one for the filter and one for a fountain. This is quite a good idea because when the filter becomes ever so slightly clogged up, the amount of water pressure it can force through a fountain will diminish. There is also the potential noise problem with a powerful fountain or waterfall; it could possibly disturb you and other people in your neighbourhood, so a dual garden pond pump setup will enable you to switch on & off either manually or automatically with an electronic timer. A waterfall is a classic example of the planning and investigation required before considering what garden pond pump to purchase as we will need to calculate the amount of water required to make the waterfall look nice. We would also need to consider the overall price of buying the pump and much more important, the running cost over several years, many times it will probably work out considerably cheaper in buying a more powerful pump as once installed it will have the power to pump the water without running flat. These are all factors we consider BEFORE purchasing your pump!

One big question is whether to use mains power or low voltage? Low voltage garden pond pumps obviously still need mains power, but mains power is transformed into low voltage making the mix of water and electricity much safer. On our installations the transformer unit would have to be

housed in a dry, safe location typically away from the garden pond and the low voltage cables would be installed under the surface of your garden normally at a considerable depth to avoid accidental damage when gardening. Generally speaking mains garden pond pumps are more powerful and required if you want to run a large fountain or waterfall as their flow rate is normally superior to a low voltage pump. With any electrical appliance used in the garden, when installing we always consider the safety aspect so all electrical devices installed by us will run through a Residual Current Circuit Breaker (RCCB) or residual-current device (RCD), in case any accidents should arise.

Check out our picture galleries to see what we can create for you. If you are interested in creating a water garden or would like us to install a water feature then please contact us, and we will arrange an onsite inspection at a time that is convenient for you.