

## Maintenance

Keep pebble pools topped up at all times, never allow the pump to run without water. Particular attention should be paid during very hot or windy weather, when water may evaporate more quickly.

- Remove any large debris, such as leaf litter, from the pool regularly, to prevent the pump from clogging.
- Clean the pump filter sponge every three months, or sooner if the pumps performance appears to decline.
- To prevent your water feature from going green with algae, use a proprietary chemical, such as Aquaclear, which is harmless to plants and fish.



## Further reading

Step-by-Step Practical Guides - **Water Features for the Garden**  
by Alan & Gill Bridgewater  
ISBN 1-85974-441-9

**Ground Force Water Garden Workbook**  
by Charlie Dimmock  
ISBN 0-563-55113-5

**Container Water Gardening**  
by Philip Swindells  
ISBN 0-276-42399-2

The Royal Horticultural Society - **Water Gardening**  
by Philip Swindells  
ISBN 1-84000-159-3

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# creating a...Water Feature

## Creating a Water Feature

The heritage of over three thousand years of gardening ability has left us with an array of possibilities when thinking of a water feature. Water can be incorporated into almost any garden. What ever its size or shape, there is a style to suit. Water has the ability to draw the eye and visitors' attention - reflecting light if still or stimulating the senses when moving.



The correct site is all important. Typically pools and ponds are best sited in full sun for the health of plants and fish. However, the play of water in a shady corner has a charm all of its own. You will not be able to grow sun loving water lilies and tropical pond marginals, but ferns and Hostas will revel in the cool environment. Running water is visually exciting. You only have to watch a child

drawn to a fountain to confirm this fact. The style of moving water chosen should be dictated by the scale and setting of the whole garden. For example, a small town garden may cry out for a mask or water spout, splashing into a bowl or trough.

## Safety around children

If young children use the garden, a self contained pebble pool incorporating a millstone, glazed sphere or decorative figure would be a safer option - water is contained below ground level in a recessed "sump", over which a grill or lid sits, supporting the "feature". A sub-merged pump in the reservoir below feeds water up, through the ornament, before it trickles down again into the sump. The supporting grill or lid should be covered in cobbles or similar large stones to restrict access to the underground store of water.

An external water supply is not necessary. Once full, the unit re-uses its own supply. However, an external source of electricity is required to power the pump.

## Large gardens

In larger or country gardens, water looks best on a grander scale, be it a waterfall or bubbling stream, pond or fishing lake. Be bold, make a statement in keeping with the surroundings.



## Installing a pebble pool

(Self-contained pond unit.)

- Site any water feature on firm, level ground, ideally away from overhanging trees or shrubs, to prevent clogging by fallen leaves.
- Pumps should be installed and wired according to the manufacturers instructions. If the flex to the pump appears damaged in any way, it should not be used and must be returned to the supplier. If in any doubt, consult a qualified electrician.
- All electrical cabling used outdoors should be run through some form of protective covering eg. plastic pipe or tubing, to protect from possible damage.
- To install the water feature, dig a hole the same diameter and depth as the sump in the middle of the pool. The outer edge of the feature should sit just proud of the surface, to prevent dirt entering the pool.
- Check the pool is level. If the ground is uneven it may be necessary to remove soil from underneath the outside edge to ensure the water feature sits level.
- Remove any large stones from the hole and add a layer of sand to cushion the liner.
- Complete the installation by positioning the pump and filling with water. Place the lid onto the pool and cover with cobbles, slate or similar aggregate. It is advisable to wash all pebbles before placing them in the pool as they often are covered in silt or dust which may cloud the water and clog the pump.