

AQUATICS FOR ALL

Have you ever considered installing a pond but couldn't imagine you had enough space? Or maybe you live in an apartment or condominium and don't think you can possibly water garden. Here are two do-it-yourself projects that will have water trickling and aquatic plants thriving, in no time adding to the ambience of any area. Just follow these easy steps to create a container pond and no-mess fountain.

Container Pond

Here's what you need:

Container. Use your favorite pot or any good-sized container with some character and visual interest. Be sure to select a container large enough to accommodate three plants, a filter and a small air pump. Make sure there are no leaks in the container!

At least three plants. You need to pick up one oxygenator, one floater and finally, a marginal plant. The oxygenator provides oxygen in the water, while the floating plant provides a screen, generally for fish. A marginal plant will add height and form to your container pond.

Five pounds of stone. Use your imagination. Choose from small pea gravel to large river stones. You might even want to collect your own natural stone or include some colorful tumbled glass.

Water. Use tap water, which has natural buffers already in it. However, it also contains chlorine and other elements that can be harmful to plants and fish, so you will definitely need to add a dechlorinator.



Filter. Use a gentle sponge filter. This will serve as the biological foundation in your pond, providing aeration and circulation for healthy water. The filter will require an air pump, tubing and close access to electricity.

Follow these simple steps to build your pond:

- 1 Place potted plants into the container or pot, keeping them in their original planters to prevent the roots from taking over the pond. When placing the plants, set the marginals toward the back to hide any tubing, the floaters in the middle and the oxygenators in the front.
- 2 Place the filter snugly between two of the planters on the bottom of the container, helping keep it under water and not visible.
- 3 Pour rocks into the bottom of the container and over the filter, filling until the bottom of the plants are covered. This hides the filter and plants, while creating a natural filter to keep your water clean and clear.
- 4 Fill the container with water up to two inches from the top.
- 5 Dechlorinate the tap water, making it safe for the plants.
- 6 Plug in your filter and turn it on. Add one or two small fish or a decorative candle, if you want.
- 7 Most importantly, sit back, relax and enjoy.



Each issue, *Green Profit* organizes a ready-made class on livegood and hardgood topics in the form of a magazine page you can tear out, even giving it to customers who want questions answered, myths debunked and a reason to be in a garden environment, regardless of the season. You provide the customers and example products; we'll do the rest.

DIY Fountain

Here's what you need:

- **Two pots, one that pours and one that receives**
- **Pot stand** (optional)
- **River rocks** (about five pounds)
- **Aquatic plants** (optional)
- **Plastic tubing** (about two feet)
- **Pump** (70 gallon per hour)
- **Tap water**
- **Fountain treatment and maintenance kit**

Follow these step-by-step directions to create your fountain:

1 Design your fountain, positioning pots or containers so that you can have water flowing from one into the other. In the diagram, the plant stand supports a spill pot with a flat bottom (designed to be used in a fountain or pond). Most containers will work, as long as they have a hole in the back or bottom to accommodate pump tubing.

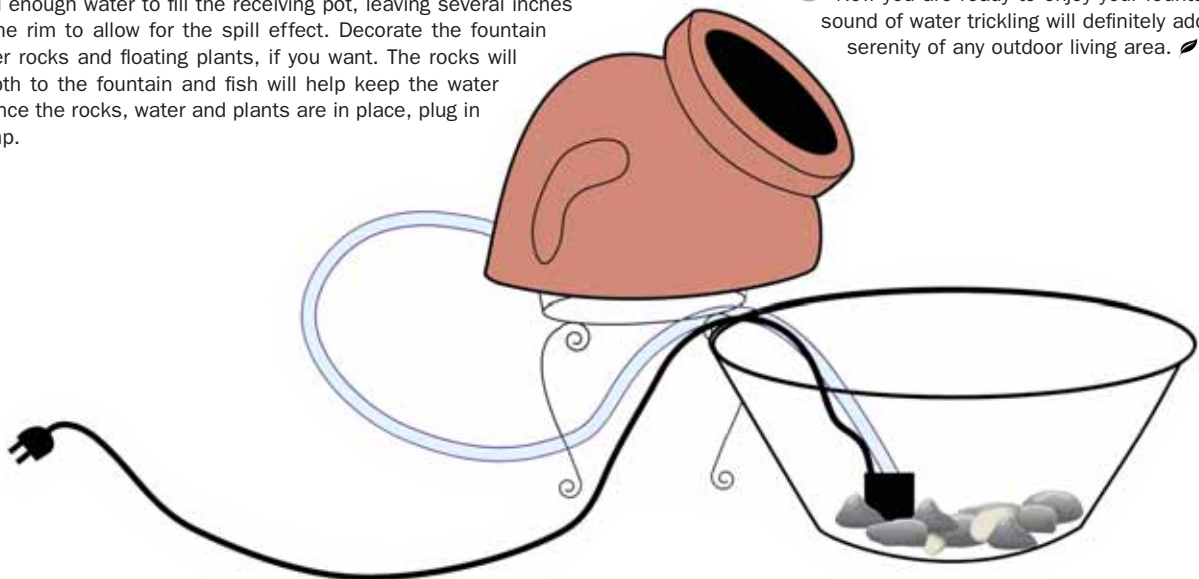
2 Place the pump inside the receiving container in a place that is discreet; behind or below the water flow is a good choice, as it'll be camouflaged by the water movement. Connect the tubing to the pump and bring it behind to the back of the other container. Once connected to the container, your fountain is ready for water. (Caution: To prevent motor damage, do not turn on the pump until water is added.)

3 Add enough water to fill the receiving pot, leaving several inches below the rim to allow for the spill effect. Decorate the fountain with river rocks and floating plants, if you want. The rocks will add depth to the fountain and fish will help keep the water clear. Once the rocks, water and plants are in place, plug in the pump.



4 To keep your fountain clean, there are many kits on the market, including Fountain Keeper from Jungle Laboratories. Algae growth is common, frequently caused by too much light hitting the fountain, and hard water tends to cause white scale. Again, products are available to combat these maintenance challenges.

5 Now you are ready to enjoy your fountain. The sound of water trickling will definitely add to the serenity of any outdoor living area. 🌿



*By Bill Calkins with special thanks to the experts at Jungle Laboratories for these ideas and the photography.
To learn more about their products and services, visit them on the Web at www.junglelabs.com.*