

Pond Department

Design & Conception

1. Water is an essential key to incorporating nature into your landscape and bringing it to life. Consider a fountain, aqua bowl, custom made water feature, disappearing waterfall, or pond. There is a water feature for everyone's budget.
2. When designing a pond, establish what needs will have to be met. Do you want a simple water garden? An ecosystem pond? Perhaps a full-blown Koi pond? The design, dimensions, filtration, and supplies necessary to create various ponds differ greatly.
3. When designing a waterfall, consider the noise level you want and the distance from your main viewing/seating area. Use construction techniques like an echo chamber behind your falls or stacked stone in tight channels to create whitewater for extra noise!
4. Build to scale. Use stone and boulders that fit the size of the feature you are building. Nothing looks more out of place than a medium to large pond or falls with a load of small stone, boulders and slate surrounding it.
5. Are you up-to-date with your townships' codes? Many areas will require fencing on projects that reach deeper than 18-24 inches.
6. Pondless waterfalls are great for the kids. Incorporate small, shallow pools and areas where they can play in and around the waterfalls for ultimate interaction. Plus, it's a great way for the whole family to enjoy the summer months.
7. Explore your options when it comes to maintenance and care. A bit more money spent up front in adding some premium filtration options such as an ultraviolet light filter or a bottom drain saves a lot more money and time spent on cleanouts, treatments, and upgrades down the line.

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Design & Conception (Continued)

8. Take into account all the areas you want to view your water feature from. Place your pond, falls or water feature where you can get the most out of it. Before you dig, look from multiple vantage points, windows, etc.

9. Take that fish pond right up to a patio, deck, or other seating area. Dangle your feet, hand-feed and pet your aquatic companions! Blend where the water comes in and goes out.



10. Light your pond and water features for a whole new experience at night. View your fish after hours, create that extra warm welcome to visitors, and add another level of ambiance to your outdoor living area in the evening.

11. Use natural lighting for fish ponds. Your beautiful red and white Kohaku Koi just turned brown and gray under that blue light. Save the color changes for the waterfall or non-fish ponds.

12. Incorporate plants inside the feature and out. Blend those edges and it will look like your house was built next to a natural stream or pond.

13. Every water feature has a beginning and an end, but you don't want it to look like it does both (or either) in your yard. Hide the sources, use plants and scattered boulders to blend where the water comes in and goes out.