

Always be aware of dangers

Children are at a higher risk of drowning when they visit other people's gardens according to research. Be extra careful when visiting other people who have a pond – or if other people's children play near yours.

Drownings don't just happen in ponds. Always supervise children when playing with water. Empty paddling pools and buckets as soon as they are finished with, and keep water butts and large buckets covered securely.



Emergency resuscitation

A First Aid course will prepare you for a wide range of situations, from simple cuts to broken limbs and resuscitation. To find your nearest course, look in the phone book for St John Ambulance or St Andrew's Ambulance Association. Please note, the following procedure is recommended for children under the age of seven only.



If your child is unconscious

Look and listen for 10 seconds to check breathing. To check the pulse, put your fingers on the carotid pulse – in the neck – for 10 seconds.



Mouth to mouth ventilation

Pinching your child's nose closed, breathe into his or her mouth until the chest rises. Let the chest fall, then repeat at a rate of 10 breaths per minute.



Chest compressions

Put the heel of your hand just above where the ribs meet the breastbone and press down to a third of the depth of the chest. Do this 5 times, at a rate of 100 per minute. Alternate 5 compressions with 1 ventilation.



Recovery position

If your child is breathing and has a pulse, place him or her in the recovery position. Check breathing and pulse frequently.



dti

Department of Trade and Industry

Printed in the UK on recycled paper with a minimum HMSO score of 50. July 2000. Department of Trade and Industry. <http://www.dti.gov.uk/> © Crown Copyright. DTI/Pub 4967/500k7/00/NP. URN 00/973

Safer Ponds by Design



Ponds are a real source of pleasure in the garden – and young children find them fascinating.

But they can also be very dangerous as it does not take much water to drown a child. In fact a dozen children drown in gardens every year.

It's easy to make your pond safer by design – this leaflet explains how.



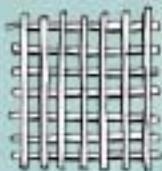


Cover smaller ponds...

... a combination of wooden trellis and wire mesh is ideal for the job.

- The trellis you can buy from your local DIY usually comes in lengths of 1.8m and widths of 0.3m to 1.8m.

You should then cover over the gaps in the trellis with a layer of wire mesh – to stop even the smallest of heads from poking through.



Support and secure well

- The trellis must not dip below the water line if a child crawls onto it. So, you may need to use a wooden frame for additional support, depending on the size of the pond and the number of sections of trellis needed to cover it.
- Also, it must not be possible for a child to crawl underneath. So ensure there is plenty of overlap and secure the edges all around.



Fence larger ponds that are impractical to cover

Make sure children cannot climb over/get through.

- The fence should be 1.1m high with solid panels of vertical bars no more than 60mm apart.
- If you use a steel mesh fence, ensure the links are no larger than 25mm so that it is hard for small children to climb up or trap themselves in.



- Fit a gate with a child-proof lock and keep it locked when you can't be there.

Pond Safety



Plan carefully – design for safety

- Ensure you site the pond where it can be seen easily.
- Design it with gently shelving edges. This is much safer than having a sudden step into deeper water.
- Use plants as a barrier for restricting access to deeper water.

It is best to wait till your children are at least five before you build a pond. So, ideally hold off until then – or fill your pond in.



If you are in doubt about doing any of this work yourself, call in some professional help.