

Give a Frog a Home



Frogs love ponds or bogs. And a frog's home can also be an attractive and exciting feature in your home! You can have great fun building a home for our froggy friends and watching how the population of frogs and other small animals grows in your pond or bog.

Build your own frog pond

Get a team together to design and build your own backyard frog pond.

Find a suitable location. Your frog pond should be located in a partially shady area.

Decide how you will line your pond to hold water.



- Pre-made pond shapes are easy to install and fairly leak-proof
- Pond liner – follow the supplier's directions for installation, for example, you may need to line the pond with sand
- Concrete – follow the supplier's advice for concrete thickness, need for wire reinforcing and sealant.

Dig your hole. The hole should slope gradually from the edge of the pond to an average depth of about 30cm, suitable for small aquatic animals.

Insert your chosen pond liner and fill with clean water. Tip: Add tap water only after it has sat in a bucket in the sun for a few days to remove the chlorine.

Plant a selection of indigenous plants (locally native) to your area. In the pond: a few aquatic plants provide hiding places for the frogs but don't clog the water. Around the edge: a mix of larger and smaller plants to provide partial shade without blocking the light. Your local nursery, Landcare officer, Council, Greening Australia or Gould Group's Wildscape website (www.wildscape.com.au) can provide advice on the best plants to use.

Safety First! Make your frog pond safe for small children by installing wire mesh just under the surface or by fencing the area off. Or construct a shallow pond with a checkerboard of rock stepping stones covering the area.



Building a frog bog garden

Frogs can find shelter in a moist part of the garden sheltered by plants. Most will not be able to breed (produce eggs and tadpoles) without a body of water but will spend much of the year visiting other leafy damp places.

Design Tips 'n' Tricks

Place some **rocks** and **logs** around the edge to create 'ladders' for your froggy visitors to enter the pond.

Take a little time to **research** the most suitable plants. Different plants are indigenous (locally native) to different areas and attract different frogs. For example, the Common Froglet (*Crinia signifera*) loves Creeping Boobialla (*Myoporum parvifolium*).

A **water overflow 'bog'** garden with sheltering plants is a good idea to manage rainwater overflow from the pond and provide extra hiding and calling places for frogs and to attract the insects they eat – install a pre-made pond at a slight angle to create the overflow.

To build your frog bog, follow steps 1-3 for creating a frog pond but fill your liner with moist soil instead of water then plant indigenous grasses, ground covers and clumping plants and ferns. Keep it damp and shady.

Pumps and fountains (if desired) should flow gently to avoid destroying tadpoles and eggs. A very sloping site may need a line of **smaller ponds** – why not go all out and include a happily trickling stream, cascading over stones and through shallow troughs to lead to the pond? Help the frogs find the new home you have built with a **path** of frog-friendly garden beds leading to the pond or bog.

Keep your frogs healthy

Avoid fish – they will eat frogs' eggs and tadpoles.

Avoid using pesticides, detergents or fertilizers near your frog pond – they will contaminate the water.

Build it and they will come



Let the frogs come to you – it may take over a year for frogs to find their way. Mosquitoes will visit first and then other small animals will gradually find their way to prey upon the mosquitoes and create a diverse and interesting small animal community. Wait until the frogs come to you – it is illegal to collect frogs and tadpoles in Victoria. For more information about all things frog-related visit the Amphibian Research Centre at www.frogs.org.au

