

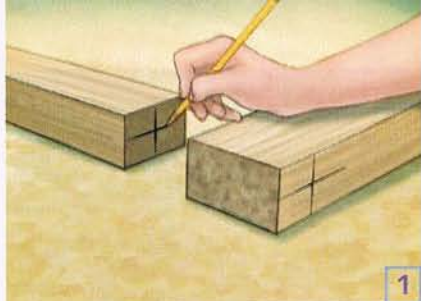


# build a raised pool

The best place to put a raised pool is on a long, wide, flat stone walkway. Container pools of any size are extremely heavy and need to rest on a base that can withstand considerable weight. This rectangular pool serves to break up a space that might otherwise be visually boring. Similar planters nearby can be filled with greenery and flowers to produce a harmonious effect. Plants in a pool this big should be grown in containers so that they are easy to remove for tending and propagation. Special containers are available at garden stores that sell aquatic plants, but you can also use a brown or black laundry basket or a milk crate with slatted sides. Line the basket or crate with burlap.

## materials

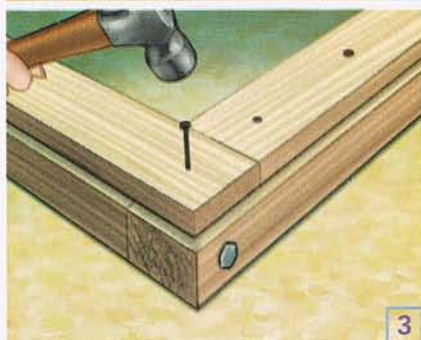
- Rake (optional)
- Carpenter's level
- Twelve 4" x 6" pressure-treated beams (six 8'-long beams and six 3'-long beams)
- Measuring tape
- Marker
- Drill with 3/8" drill bit
- Twelve 1/2" lag screws, each 6" long
- Wrench
- Hammer
- 3" x 6" pressure-treated lumber (two 3'9"-long boards and two 6'11"-long boards)
- Nails, 3 1/2" long
- One 2" x 4" board, 8 1/2" long
- Shovel (if necessary)
- Two 7/8" lag screws, each 8" long
- 4' x 8' sheet of 1/2"-thick pressure-treated plywood cut into two 11" x 8' lengths and two 11" x 4' lengths
- Wood chisel
- Old carpet, at least 4' x 8'
- 8' x 12' sheet of 30- to 45-mil. black PVC
- 12 bricks
- Hose
- Staple gun and staples
- Scissors
- 2" x 8" pressure-treated lumber for the seat (two 8'3"-long boards with their ends mitered at 45-degree inward-facing angles and two 4'2"-long boards, also with their ends mitered at 45-degree inward-facing angles)
- Exterior wood primer
- Exterior paint
- Paintbrush
- Pea gravel
- Submersible pump
- Fountain extension



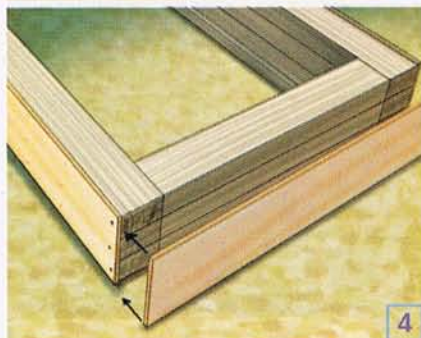
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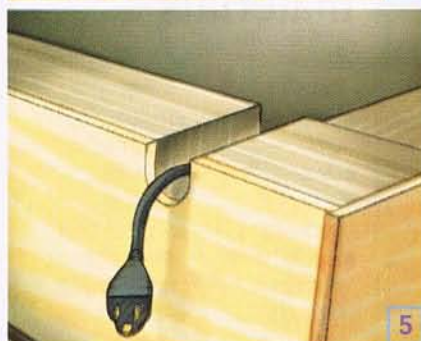
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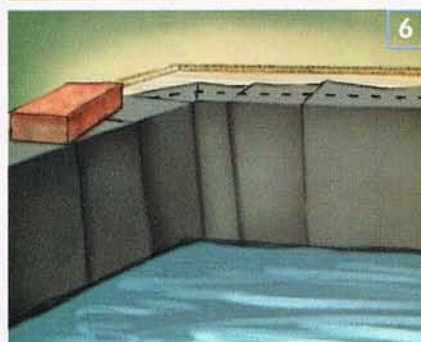
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5



6

Find a level spot for the pool. Clear away any vegetation and, checking with a carpenter's level, rake the area until it is perfectly flat. For the pool frame, arrange two long and two short beams in a rectangle. Place them wide side down and with the short beams sandwiched between the long ones. On the outer side of each long beam, mark a spot  $2\frac{1}{2}$ " in from the end and  $1\frac{1}{2}$ " down from the top. Temporarily move the short beams out and mark a spot on both ends of each at the same distance in from the outer side and the top so that the holes on the long beams line up with the holes on the short beams.

Using a  $\frac{3}{8}$ " drill bit, drill a hole completely through the long and  $2\frac{1}{2}$ " into the short beams at the marked spots, drilling from both sides of the long beams if necessary. Reposition the four beams of the frame, matching up the holes at the long and short ends. Thread a 6" lag screw into each hole on the long beams, turning them with a wrench and finally hammering them until they are flush with the wood surface. Continue joining corners until you have a rectangle. Three such rectangles will be stacked to create the frame. Measure diagonally across the frame from both sides; if the measurement is the same, the rectangle has square corners.

## A water garden in a raised boxed bed is a

## perfect addition to an open patio space

Start making the footing by placing one of the  $3\frac{1}{2}$ " x  $6\frac{1}{2}$ " x  $3\frac{1}{2}$ " boards, wide side down, on one of the short ends of the pond frame, positioning it so that it is inset 1" on three sides and overhangs 1" in the open area of the frame. Nail it in place. Now position one of the  $3\frac{1}{2}$ " x  $6\frac{1}{2}$ " x  $6\frac{1}{2}$ " boards, wide side flat, on one of the long sides, making sure it is inset 1" from the outside edge and one end butts into the board at the short end. Nail in place. Position and nail the other long and short boards. Turn the unit over so that the frame is resting on the footing. Position the pool in its final resting spot; place a  $2\frac{1}{2}$ " x 4" board across the frame and lay a level on top to check that it is level. Remove some earth beneath any area that is too high.

Create two more rectangular components of the frame with the remaining beams as in step number 2. On the four remaining long beams, also mark the midpoints on the top sides of the boards, 4" in from both ends, and drill a hole through from top to bottom. Stack the two newly created rectangles on top of the first one, lining up the corners and the holes drilled in the long beams. Thread 8"-long lag screws into these holes, turning them with a wrench to screw them through the top two frames and 1" into the bottom frame. Finally, hammer the lag screws into place. To cover the outside of the pool frame, position the plywood with the long sides butting into the short ends. Begin by nailing both long side pieces ( $11\frac{1}{2}$ " x 8") to each layer of frame at about 12" intervals. Be sure that the edge of the plywood is flush with the top frame. Now nail the short ends in position.

Determine where the electrical cord will come out of the pool and, at that point, drill holes in a small U shape at the top of the frame, going through the plywood and lumber. With a chisel, remove the middle of the U to create an opening for the power cord to go through. Put the old carpet on the ground inside the frame.

Place the PVC liner inside the frame, overlap the top equally all around, and fold excess liner into a large pleat at each corner. Hold the liner in place with bricks along the top of the frame. Use a hose to run about 6" of water into the pool to settle the PVC liner in position. Lifting up one brick at a time, staple the liner in place along the top edge of the frame. Cut off excess liner. Place the  $2\frac{1}{2}$ " x 8" mitered seat boards in a rectangle on top of the frame, covering the stapled liner and positioning the boards to overhang the inside and outside edges equally. Nail the seat board through the PVC liner and into the pond frame. Brush primer on the outside of the frame and the seat, but not the footing. When the primer is dry, apply two coats of exterior paint. Cover the cleared area around the pool with pea gravel. Place the pump on a brick above any sediment in the pond. Connect the fountain extension to the pump outlet. Thread the electrical cable through the U cutout in the pool and connect it to a GFCI (ground fault circuit interrupter) outlet. Fill the pool with water. If the extension doesn't clear the final water level, raise up the pump until it does.