



Ponds & Water sources

Wildlife ponds are a fantastic addition to your wildlife garden and will attract lots of insects and other wildlife to your garden. They can also provide a safe drinking spot for hedgehogs and other animals.

Hedgehogs benefit from a year-round water supply, as all wildlife do. As well as a shallow dish of water provided with supplementary food, a pond actually provides a larger more reliable water source that is very enticing! A lot of wildlife will also use ponds to bathe in and clean themselves, or even cool down in hot weather. Just be sure to keep the pond topped up all year round, to minimise the risk of hedgehogs falling in!



How can you make your pond safe?

Hedgehogs are actually great swimmers, but they can't swim forever! If a hedgehog ventures into a pond with no escape route, it will soon tire and drown.

The best wildlife ponds for hedgehogs have shallow sloping sides (like a beach) with plenty of escape routes all the way round. The pond will also need to be fairly shallow. One escape route is not enough – an exhausted hedgehog won't realise that if it keeps swimming around, it would eventually find an escape route. You need to provide escape routes all around the edges to make it extra easy for them!

You can do this by creating sloped edges when you create your pond or putting rocks/large stones into the water and also plenty of pots with pond plants, submerged just under the water. You can also create a ladder to help hedgehogs escape. I have several submerged logs as well – which are also great for dragonfly larvae.

(SilverHedgehog)



