

How big should my pond be?

A pond needs to be in correct proportion to its surrounding area. For instance, a tiny pond would look lost in a huge garden. You also need to think about what depth to make your pond. As a general rule of thumb, a pond should be at least 2-feet deep if you want plants and fish. Water that's too shallow is vulnerable to evaporating in warm weather and freezing in winter. If you want to grow marginal plants along the edge of the water, you need to create shelves for them to be planted on.

How much liner do I need?

With most ponds a the following guide should be useful.

- Take the maximum length of your pond and write it down. **lets say 9 foot**
- Take the maximum depth (not the average depth) and double that. **2-feet deep would be 4-feet** If the liner goes down into the pond it must come back up! That is why you double the depth. Add 2-feet to the total (one foot over on each end to anchor the liner)
- This gives you a required length of liner as $9+4+2=15$ -feet
- Use the same calculations for the width.
- When attaching a waterfall filter that will be elevated above the pond, you will need additional liner. If you have a 4-foot tall waterfall then you will need an additional 4-feet of liner on that side.
- If you're not sure you have it right, bring all you dimensions and we can help.
- For large ponds, consider using 2-feet of liner on each side. For extremely large ponds, call for assistance.



A pond liner installed showing shelves in the pond for different types of plants.

Our Pond Liner

We carry **Firestone Pondgard 45-mil EPDM Pond Liner**. 45-mil stands for the thickness of the liner material. It is 45/1000 of an inch thick. That may not sound like a lot but this super sturdy liner is the choice of professional pond installers and consumers all over the world. To give you an idea of the outstanding strength of this liner, consider that 3.2 square foot of 45-mil liner will weigh 1-pound.

This liner is **fish friendly**. Pondgard is based on EPDM synthetic rubber, a highly flexible stable material that's not only long lasting and easy to work with, but safe for fish and plant life. Can I use roofing liner for my pond? Sure you can.....as long as you don't mind dead fish! Roofing liner is very similar to Pondgard pond liner. Unfortunately roofing material is made of ingredients based upon market prices. Sometimes it is made with ingredients the same as "fish safe liner," sometimes not. If you get a batch of material that is not made with "fish safe ingredients" you could end up with a toxic pond of death. Roofing material is often made with harsh ingredients such as arsenic that can sicken or kill your fish.

This **highly flexible material** stays flexible in a variety of temperatures- from -40 degrees F to 175 degrees F. Pondgard contains no plasticizers which can embrittle with age and cause cracks or splits in the material threatening fish and animal life.

Pondgard offers **design versatility** and can easily be shaped to fit the unique contours of your pond giving you much more design creativity.

Pondgard **shows outstanding weather resistance and to the harmful effects of ultraviolet radiation (UV), ozone, and other environmental conditions**. We feel these are important characteristics especially along the water line of the pond where the liner can be exposed. Pondgard will stretch over exposed rocks and tree roots.

Why is FIRESTONE Pondgard EPDM liner better than a cheap PVC liner? PVC liner is super cheap and really easy to work with since it is so thin. Liners containing PVC are made with plasticizers to keep them flexible. Over time, or when exposed to the sun, these plasticizers leach out of the liner leaving it brittle. In as little as one year a PVC liner can be brittle enough to split open under the weight of pond water and one day you look out to find an empty pond. The question you should be asking yourself is whether you wish to make the cheapest pond possible or whether you wish to build a pond that will last and be enjoyed for years to come. Building your pond with the cheapest liner possible is like building a house with a sand foundation. It may look nice for a while but in the end you will come to deeply regret not spending the few extra dollars to do the job right.

Use Underlayment

Underlayment is to protect your pond liner. Liner is very strong and puncture resistant but it does have its limits. The average 2-foot-deep pond that is 11 x 16-feet will have enough water in it to exceed 10 ton. Using underlayment can improve the puncture resistance of your pond liner by 400%. Rocks will emerge over time as the weight of your pond presses down on it. "I want to use old carpet for an underlayment" Carpets can be bacteria-filled, mold attractors. Now take this and put it under your pond liner where it will sit wet and moldy for the next 10-20 years. This could lead to problems and is just not a good idea. Instead, use underlayment supplied in the pond kit or a 20-year landscape fabric.



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