

CHOOSING MATERIALS

Building a waterfall and/or stream is like assembling a puzzle without a picture for reference. Beauty is in the eye of the beholder, and, with the right tools, it can be fun and easy!

1 . The first tool needed is a Waterfall [Spillway](#). Waterfall [Spillways](#) spread water out from the hose, avoid the “fire hose” effect and help to make the feature look natural.

TIP: Go to www.pondmarketphotos.com to see a Waterfall build, start to finish!

2 . [Underliner](#) is needed under the fish safe [pond liner](#) to protect the liner from the stone used. Liner should be used from the spillway to the pond.

3 . “[Waterfall pumps](#)” do better at pumping “Niagara Falls” effects, but [Mag Drive Pumps](#) generate great waterfalls using much less energy.

4 . [Flexible Pond Hose](#) will last quite awhile, is flexible, and will not freeze in the winter months like hard plastic PVC.

5 . Fish Safe [Waterfall Foam Sealant](#) works great to seal rocks and make sure water flows over the rocks instead of underneath. It also maximizes the pumps pumping power.

6 . It is important to dig out and form up the waterfall and/or stream before the liner is purchased. Once dug out and formed, use a string to determine the length and width of the liner needed.



Materials Checklist

- [Fish Safe Pond Liner](#)
- [Underliner](#)
- [Waterfall Spillway](#)
- [Waterfall Pump](#)
- [Pond Hose](#)
- [Waterfall Sealant](#)
- [Fish Safe Silicone](#)
- [Fittings](#)



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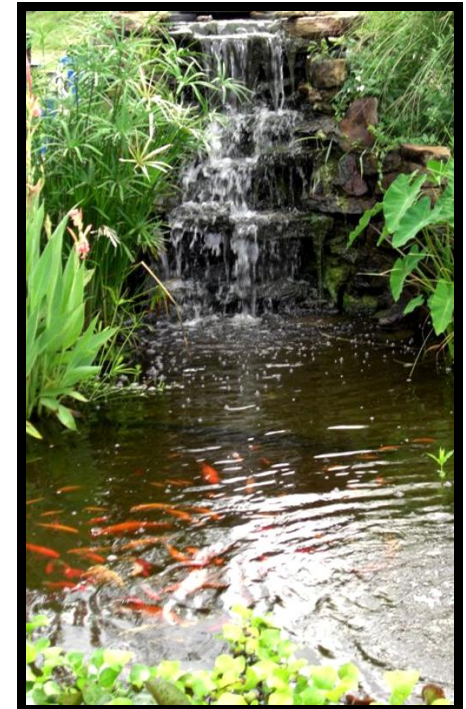
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**500 South County Center Parkway
St. Louis MO 63129**



How to

Build Waterfalls and Streams



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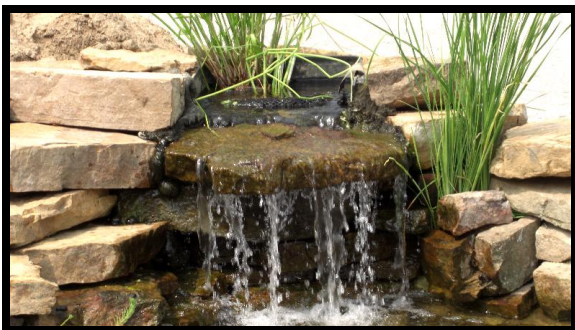
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GETTING STARTED

1. The starting point for any waterfall is to determine the desired outcome. Ask yourself, why do I want the waterfall? Is it the sound, the look, for wildlife, kids to play in, all of the above? These answers are key in planning.
2. The next thing to consider is the size of the waterfall. **Remember:** the wider, longer, and higher the fall, the more [pump](#), [liner](#), [underliner](#), [hose](#), and stone will be needed to create the waterfall and/or stream.
3. Location, Location, Location... Alcoves, in view of bay windows, near a deck, patio, or porch, these are all great locations for a waterfall and/or stream. Water features should be seen, heard, and enjoyed from many vantage points and locations.
4. Once the desired outcomes are identified, the size is known, and the location(s) marked, the only other thing left is the stone selection and stonework.
5. Picking stone is purely a matter of taste. The only criterion is size. Larger stones are great for the footing and for accent pieces mixed about. Smaller stones work great for channeling the water, filling in gaps, and shimming larger stones.



WORKING YOUR WAY UP

The key to building waterfalls and streams is to work from the pond up to the spillway. Getting a footing that appears or looks level is the key. Remember, stone does not have to be completely level to look level and be stable. That's the great part!

1. Mounding up a dirt pile or carving an area into a hillside is a great starting point. Take care to locate the [spillway](#) at the starting point. The "stair steps" can be as long and/or deep as you like. "Stair Steps" are used for the actual waterfall(s). Flat stones can be placed on the stair steps. Use larger stones on the sides of the flat stones and seal them with [waterfall foam](#).



2. Once the earth is formed to liking, the [underliner](#) and [liner](#) are in place, it's time to work on the footing. In the picture above, the footing is at the bottom of the waterfall in the pond. This is the most important part, since building up from here is necessary.
3. It's very important that the [underliner](#) and [liner](#) are pushed all the way back to the earth and there is no tension or pulling on the liner from the stone.

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HIDING THE LINER

It's very important to remember that the sides of any waterfall must be "cupped" in order to prevent the water from escaping on the sides of the feature. Make sure the stone work does not push the [liner](#) down on the sides.



SEALING IT UP

Once the waterfall is constructed, the [waterfall spillway](#) and stonework has to be [sealed](#). Follow the manufacturer instructions for the spillway. [Waterfall Foam](#) must be used for the stonework. Fill any crack and/or gaps, let the foam dry, and you are ready to run your waterfall!



Tip: large flat stones work well when a "drop" effect is desired. When a cascading effect is desired, narrow stones stacked work very well.