

AB
Courtyard
Collection™

Building An In-Ground Pond

Basic steps for building a pond below grade.



Enhance your yard with a beautiful pond using the AB Courtyard Collection. With this flexible system you can build a pond in a weekend without any special tools or splitting of blocks. This below ground pond will use 4 courses of AB York blocks, Wall Caps, a flexible pond liner and a fountain (optional). When completed the pond will be an outstanding element in your yard. The liner we are using will be placed on the outside of the blocks to allow the AB Courtyard blocks, decorative rock and fountain to be the main focal point.

Step 1 Layout

First, choose the location for your pond and place a stake in the center. Using a tape measure, mark 41 in. (1025 mm) on the string starting at the stake. Using paint and the string, mark a circle around the stake at the location of the pond. Temporarily place the AB York blocks along the inside of the circle marked on the ground. Each course of the pond will use 27 blocks to complete the circle. Adjust blocks as needed, making sure the blocks are tight together. Use a shovel to cut around the blocks and mark where the sod and soil will be removed.



AB York Block



Wall Cap

Step 2 Excavate

Remove the blocks used to mark the pond location. Next clear any existing landscaping in the entire area and dig a hole a minimum of 12 in. (300 mm) deep to accommodate the pond. Later, we will be using some of the removed material as backfill to add a gradual slope up to the pond's edge.

Step 3 Prepare the Leveling Pad

Next in the bottom of the hole, dig a leveling trench 8 in. wide (200 mm) by 3 in. deep (75 mm) around the outside of the pond where the blocks will be placed. If there will be a statue or fountain in the pond, dig a leveling trench for its location as well. Fill the leveling trench(s) with 3 in. (75 mm) of course sand. Compact the bottom of the pond and the sand leveling pad with a hand tamper. Use a level and a straight 2x4 to level the entire pond area from side to side. A level base will make it easy to install the rest of the pond.

If electricity is required for a fountain, please follow local electrical codes.



Step 4 Stacking Blocks

Temporarily place the first two courses of AB York blocks on the sand leveling pad. *Building the first two courses at the same time ensures proper alignment.* Level and adjust each block from side to side and front to back. Once the first two courses are in place. Use a level and a straight 2x4 to level the blocks from side to side across the pond.



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Step 5 Add the Liner

Before adding the liner, carefully remove all the AB Yorks blocks. The blocks must be leveled before the liner is installed to prevent damage to the liner later. When installing the flexible liner, be sure to press the sides of the liner into the outside edges of the pond. Be careful not to step or stand on the sand leveling pad.



Step 6 Stacking Blocks

With the liner in place, carefully replace the first 2 courses of blocks in the location of the leveling pad. To avoid damaging the liner, make only minor adjustments if possible to relevel the blocks. With the first 2 courses complete and leveled, install the 3rd course.



Step 7 Backfill

With the 3 courses installed, fold the liner up over the top of the blocks. Using onsite soils, backfill around the outer edge of the liner up to the top of the blocks. Gently compact this soil to prevent settling of the soil later. Using a utility knife, trim the excess liner at the outer edge of the top of this 3rd course of blocks. Remember that the high water mark can not exceed the top of the cut of the liner. For deeper water levels, you must bury more courses.



Step 8 Last Course

Install the last course of blocks. If the pond needs electricity, chip off the bottom edge of one block using a hammer and chisel to make room for the power cord. Follow individual manufacturer's instructions on proper installation of any accessory you will be adding to the pond.



Step 9 Wall Caps

Finish the pond with Wall Caps. They can be secured in place with concrete adhesive. (optional)



Step 10 Finishing

Its time to add the water, decorative rock, a sculpture/fountain or plantings. When using rock, we recommend rinsing the rock before placing in the pond for best results. Finish the landscaping around the pond with mulch and plantings and enjoy.



Materials Needed:

- 108 York Blocks
- 27 Wall Caps
- 2 Tubes of concrete adhesive
- 6 Bags of decorative rock 50 lbs (23 kg) each (optional)



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