Natural Pool Checklist

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# Tasks:

☐ **Natual Swimming Pool**

☐ **Hollow a hole in the ground.**

☐ **Make sure the sides slope.**

☐ **Reserve at least 50 percent of your pool's surface area for shallow plants.**

☐ **Separate the swimming area of your pool and the filtration area.**

☐ **Inside the plant zone, the water should get steadily deeper, reaching a maximum depth of 18 inches near the swimming zone.**

☐ **Aerate the water so the water organisms' oxygen needs are met.**

☐ **Channel water from your pump into your plant zone through the use of PVC tubes.**

☐ **Bury the tubing in the soil about 18 inches deep.**

☐ **Use skimmers hooked up to an additional small pump, to suck off floating undesirables.**

☐ **Apply a layer of bentonite clay to seal the soil or lay a synthetic liner.**

☐ **If you choose a liner, select one made of ethylene propylene diene monomer rather than PVC.**

☐ **Cover the bottom of the pool with 4 to 5 inches of gravel.**

☐ **Open the spigot and run water through the gravel.**

☐ **Build cobblestone steps for access into and out of the pool.**

☐ **To finish the edges of your pool, run a plate compactor around the perimeter.**

☐ **USe the perimeter with rocks, flagstone or wood planking.**

☐ **Plant the perimeter right next to the edge and let the plants stabilize it.**

☐ **Concrete Options**

☐ **Consider construction with cement.**

☐ **Have the right mix and the right density to prevent cracking.**

☐ **After the concrete is poured, trowel on a %inch coat of stucco to waterproof the pool, since concrete is porous.**

☐ **Prepare the plant zone with 3 to 6 inches of soil.**

☐ **Avoid harvesting soil from areas where animal excrement is prevalent.**

☐ **Disturb the soil as little as possible and let the pool rest for a week before installing plants.**

☐ **Plants**

☐ **Before collecting a single plant from the wild, know the laws protecting wetlands and their plants.**

☐ **Be sure to choose plants suited to your climate.**

☐ **Obtain your plants from a native-plant supplier.**

☐ **Be sure to include submergent plants such as common waterweed for their high oxygen output.**

☐ **In water 6 to 18 inches deep, plant a mix of floating, submergent and emergent plants.**

☐ **Group plants according to height and type.**

☐ **Place your plants into the soil, anchoring them, with plenty of gravel.**

☐ **Maintenance**

☐ **Remove plant litter in spring and fall.**

☐ **Keep your water level constant, be prepared to add water as needed.**

☐ **Check the mechanical systems annually.**