

Im grünen Badeparadies

GREEN BATHING PARADISE

5 Gründe für einen Naturbadeteich
5 good reasons for a natural swimming pond

SWIMMING PONDS ARE INNOVATIVE

The swimming pond principle is easily explained: Although a natural swimming pond is man-made and designed, the look is that of a pond in nature. Half of the water is for swimming, the other half is a recharging zone and is lavishly filled with aquatic plants. Here, the right mix of underwater, marsh and reed plants plays an important role, because these plants function as natural filters. Together with algae, insects and a huge variety of microorganisms, decorative plants are able to clean and clarify the water – natural water treatment par excellence! In the case of swimming ponds “with technology” pumps are also used which clean the surface of the water at regular intervals. In the interests of sustainability, these pumps are often solar-powered. As a rule, the more technology used, the clearer the water – but the greater and more expensive the maintenance.

GREEN OASES ARE ECOLOGICALLY VALUABLE

Chlorine-free water creates a fantastic microclimate. It plays host to microscopic creatures, provides a habitat for toads and dragonflies, and gives diverse aquatic plants sufficient space to grow. Biotopes of this kind are both decorative and valuable. Water lilies not only please the eye, they also prevent the spread of algae. Flourishing shoreline plants store nutrients and deliver oxygen deep down. Underwater plants improve the water quality. The area around the pond should be as natural as possible, laid out, for example, as a meadow or as a bed for herbaceous perennials, to provide a retreat for animals and, at the same time, to create a harmonious transition to the garden. Wooden decks made of larch, pine or locust wood, and pebble beaches, round out a properly ecological structure.

NATURAL PONDS SAVE COSTS AND ENERGY

Natural swimming ponds are filled with water only once. Then the water level regulates itself automatically in our latitudes. This reduces the CO₂ footprint and cuts water costs. The acquisition costs are in direct relation to the owner’s wishes with regard to size and architecture. High-end natural ponds cost 500 euros upwards per square metre. But once the pond has been built and has grown together with nature, there are no



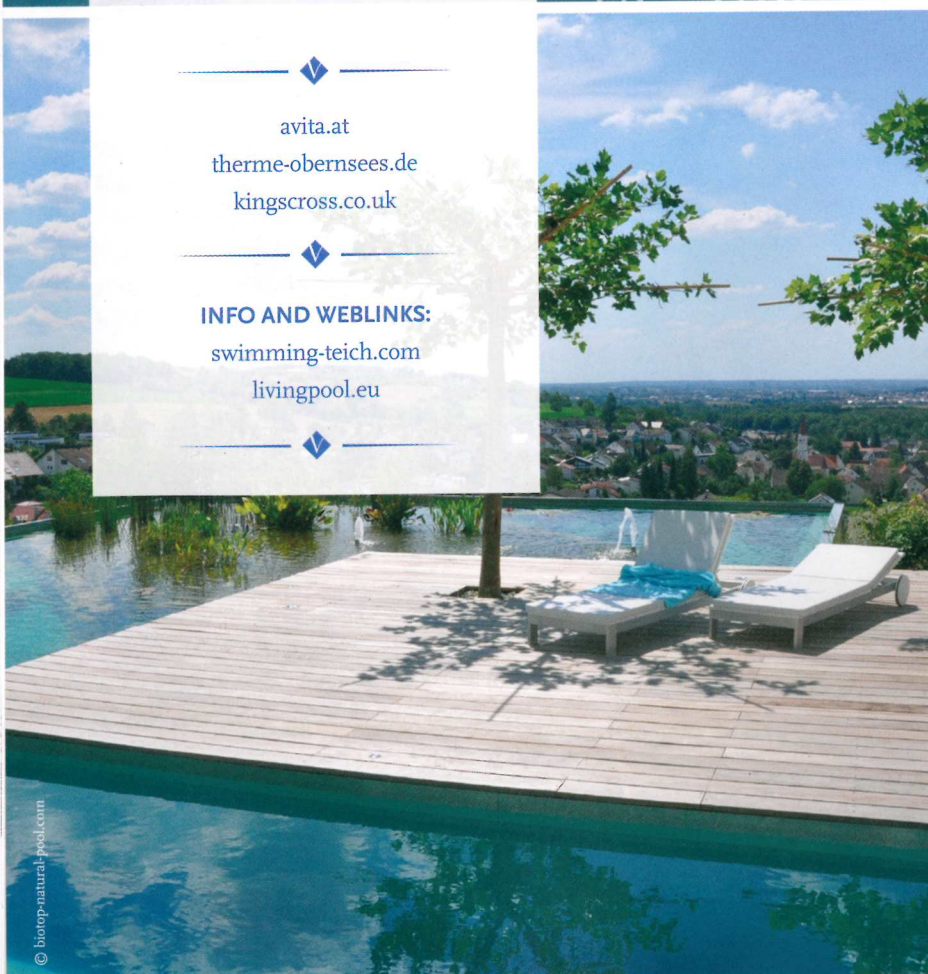
Green swimming ponds are replacing blue chlorine pools everywhere. We'll give you five reasons why a natural swimming pond in your garden is a good idea.





Natural swimming ponds are also increasingly being built for public use. The AVITA Therme in Bad Tatzmannsdorf, Austria, or the Therme Obernsees in Mistelgau, Germany have their own natural swimming ponds, for example. In London, north of King's Cross St. Pancras station, an Austrian-built natural swimming pond is causing a sensation.

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avita.at
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running costs for chlorination and heating. Some upkeep is necessary, however. Leaves have to be removed from the surface of the water, for instance, or overgrown water plants trimmed back. The time required for maintenance is around the same as that for a conventional pool. These, incidentally, can also be transformed into living ponds using a special "converter system". That's the perfect solution for anybody who wants to keep a "real" swimming pool of the old sort, but wants to dispense with chemicals.

NATURAL WATER IS GOOD FOR THE SKIN

Natural swimming ponds are filled with mains water which, thanks to the plants, is constantly filtered. This makes the water ultra soft and gentle on the skin. There is no risk of irritation to skin, hair and eyes as can so often be the case with chlorinated, conventional pools. That's a really big bonus for people with sensitive skin and atopic dermatitis. An important point to remember: to avoid upsetting the sensitive ecosystem, you shouldn't apply chemical sunscreen before jumping into the pond.

Nature oases as a modern way of life.

Design and nature in perfect symbiosis.

BIOTOPES DELIGHT THE SOUL

A natural swimming pond offers a rich experience of nature, and is a source of regeneration and relaxation. Nature puts on a glorious pageant before one's very eyes. Water in a garden pond is full of life. A look through a magnifying glass or microscope will reveal a miraculous world – one that's particularly enthralling for children. And once you've seen a swallow swooping to drink, observed dragonflies dancing, or listened to the call of toads and tree frogs, you will never want to swap your natural swimming pond for a boring polyester pool.