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Exclusive

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Colne Valley childhood

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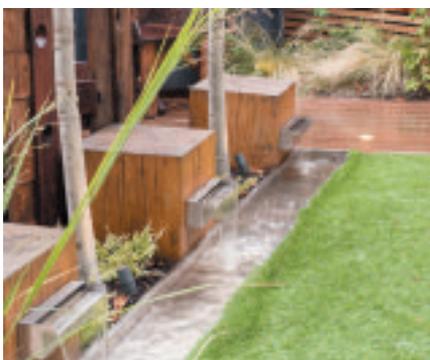
Go with the flow

Earth Designs was formed by Leigh-on-Sea-based Katrina Kieffer-Wells in 2003, and here in her monthly column she shares design tips on garden water features

There is no doubt about it, adding garden water features to your garden design will give it extra sparkle. As well as the relaxing sound of water, you have reflection and light play added to your space.

It can attract people and wildlife as well as providing a focal point. But here are some things to consider for your garden water feature:

1. Pick the right size garden water feature for your space. This is the one occasion when super-sizing should be done with caution. Don't include a pond that fills half of your garden.
2. Try and position your garden water feature so it is clearly visible from the house, as it will be a fabulous opportunity for lighting. Try to not have it in direct sunlight because it will cause it to get more algae quicker. Similarly don't position it on the trees with falling leaves as it will quickly clog up the pump and filter.
3. Safety should be a consideration, but shouldn't deter you from including a water feature if you have children. In fact, if you



have the right feature it can be a wonderful playful adventure.

4. Make use of any level changes in your space to add a fountain or pouring water of some kind.

5. All garden water features will need the pumps and filters cleaning from time to time. Water features do not need to be connected to mains water systems so do not worry about your water bill.

6. On the rise, reels are perfect for modern garden schemes. They help make strong lines across a space and they can take any form, from stainless steel, through to tiled wills.

7. Wall-mounted features are perfect for small gardens. They come in many shapes and sizes and fit with almost any style as there is so much variety.

If you don't have a garden wall to mount it on, you can build a plinth for it to be mounted on to in front of your existing boundary.

This is perfect for focal point on the patio, or placing within a flowerbed for equal impact.

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