



2 Natural beauty

Woodhouse Natural Pools creates water features that blend beautifully into their surroundings – ideal if you want to go for a more organic feel. Its 'Biotop' pools are environmentally sound, too, harnessing the water-cleansing properties of plants and microscopic organisms instead of harsh chemicals. A decked walkway around the perimeter allows you to enjoy the wildlife. Think of this as your own private mini lake (naturalswimmingpools.com).



TOP TIPS FOR POOL BLISS

Five things to consider before you install a pool

- 1** Think about wind direction, light direction and views from your house before choosing a site for your pool. A swimming pool contractor (see Key Contacts, overleaf) can help.
- 2** There are two basic kinds of pool: those that sit above ground, and submerged pools. The latter tend to be more expensive as you need to dig a hole to put them in.
- 3** Don't forget potential hidden costs – for example, lighting (if your pool is outdoors and you intend to use it at night) and heating (indoor pools will require a dehumidification system).
- 4** Make sure you're prepared for disruption and have considered access for workmen: garden pools may require the excavation of lots of soil.
- 5** There are DIY kits for sale but you'll need loads of time and specialised tools to make them work. Plus, if something goes wrong, you won't have a contractor to help sort it out! ➤