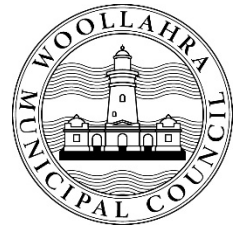


# How to set up a bird bath in your yard



## Why put a bird bath in your yard?

- Providing water in your garden is a great way to help birds as they can use the water for drinking and bathing.
- Bird baths help you get to know your local birds and enjoy observing their behaviour.
- Birds need to bathe to keep their feathers in good condition.

## What to use?

- One of the easiest and cheapest ways to get started is using large plastic saucers designed for pot plants. Look for one about 40cm across and 3-6 cm deep.
- Other simple options include hanging pots, upside down bin lids and ceramic dishes.
- You can also buy bird baths at garden shops, hardware stores and online.
- Different depths, types of baths and heights may attract different birds so don't be afraid to experiment.

## Find a safe spot

- Look for a spot with dappled shade.
- To help birds protect themselves from cats and dogs elevate the bath by placing it on a stump, post or an upturned pot.
- Place the bird bath close to some shrubs and trees so birds can escape to shelter.
- Consider placing it where you can observe the birds visiting your garden.
- Keep cats indoors and if you have a dog, place the bath in an area it can't access.

## Places to perch

- Put rocks or a branch in the water, especially if the bath is slippery.
- This will give the birds something to perch on and anything that falls in can climb out.

## Clean and fresh

- Refresh the water regularly – every day or two is good.
- Keep the bird bath clean by scrubbing regularly with a brush or scourer.
- The more use your bird bath gets the more it needs cleaning.

## Be patient

- It can take time for birds to find a new water source but they will find it.
- They may take a few days to arrive or a few weeks to discover your new bird bath.
- You may not notice when birds come to visit, so keep observing and see if there are any other signs they've been visiting.

## What else can you do to attract birds to your garden?

- One of the best ways to attract more birds to your garden is to plant local native plants that provide birds with food and shelter.

## More information

[Habitat Stepping Stones](#)

[Woollahra Council - Backyard Habitat](#)

[Birds in Backyards](#)