NSW GOVERNMENT

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING, INDUSTRY & ENVIRONMENT

How to make a wildlife watering pod

The wildlife watering pod holds around 14 litres of gravity fed water. It is best secured to a star picket or mounted on a fence post in a shaded area. The design is tested and based on the water 'fountain' developed by Arid Recovery based in outback South Australia (aridrecovery.org.au).

Benefits of the wildlife watering pod

The pod has less potential for fouling or accidental drowning than an open water trough. It is accessible for small mammals and reptiles. Other benefits include:
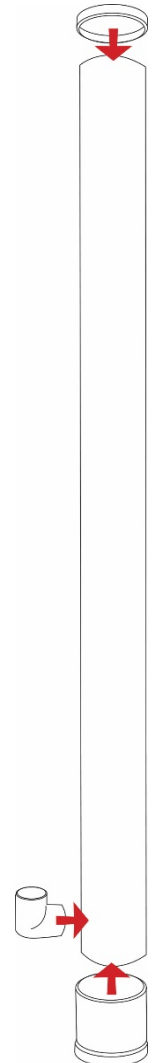
- Low cost (approximately $25) and simple to make
- Uses readily available plumbing materials
- Gravity fed, low evaporation rate from a small water access point
- Lasts one to two weeks
- Easily mounted and relocated

What you need

- 1 x PVC pipe 100 mm x 1500 mm
- 1 x PVC push-on cap 100 mm
- 1 x PVC Coupling Access 100 mm
- 1 x PVC Access cap (screw-on) 100 mm
- 1 x PVC elbow 50 mm
- PVC primer and cement (or other sealant) for non-pressurised pipes
- 54 mm hole saw attachment on a power drill

How to make the wildlife watering pod

It takes 15 minutes to make, a day to cure, ten minutes to install.

Step	Instruction	Detail
1	**Securing the push-on cap on the top.** The primer and cement must be used in a well-ventilated area. Prime the inside rim of the push-on cap and the outside edge of the pipe using the brush supplied in the product. The primer comes in red to see where it has been applied or clear for a neater look.	
2	Apply the cement to the inside of the push-up cap and outside rim of the pipe. The primer used may be blue or clear. Press the cap onto the top of the pipe and twist slightly to ensure the cap has gripped the cement firmly and any air bubbles are forced out. Leave five minutes undisturbed to dry, up to 24 hours to cure.	

Step	Instruction	Detail
3	**Securing the access coupling sleeve.** Repeat the same process with primer and cement on the inside of the sleeve and outside of the pipe.	
4	Firmly push the sleeve onto the pipe and twist slightly to secure the access coupling sleeve on the 'bottom'. This sleeve has a screw-on cap to allow easy filling of the watering pod. Note for sandy areas: alternatively, the screw cap can be cemented in place. This stops sand clogging the thread and preventing a good seal. Fill inverted with a hose via the water spout.	
5	Use a 54 millimetre hole saw to cut through the double thickness of the sleeve and pipe. The double thickness gives a greater surface area for adherence to support the elbow. Carefully widen the hole slightly, so the elbow fits tightly, by grinding the edge with the tool.	
6	**Attaching the water spout.** Clean away debris. Apply primer and cement to the outside arm of the elbow to be inserted and onto the hole rim. Insert the elbow and twist to secure. Dribble additional cement into the join to ensure it is sealed. Leave to dry undisturbed for five minutes and up to 24 hours to cure.	
7	Rinse with clean water to remove any plastic debris or other residues. Fill the inverted pod with fresh, clean water.	
8	Tighten the screw cap to ensure a vacuum is achieved. Check for leaks. Install using a strap or cable ties on a star picket or post. To refill, remove from the post and invert to fill via the screw cap.	

Remote camera night vision shots of burrowing bettongs, a western quoll and a greater bilby at watering stations reproduced with permission from Arid Recovery (aridrecovery.org.au)