

Pond Dipping: Safety and Top Tips

It is important to have a complete a comprehensive **risk assessment** before carrying out your pond dipping activity.

If you are looking for somewhere to pond dip, try your local park or other green space. Some places even have special pond dipping platforms. Always **remember to get permission** before pond dipping.



Things to keep in mind before and during your pond dip:

- Make sure you are **always supervising children** while pond dipping.
- Applying a kneeling rule ('when nets are in the water, knees are on the floor') can help ensure children **don't lean too far over** the water and exercise more caution.
- Pond water contains bacteria so make sure any **cuts are covered** by watertight plasters. Always **wash hands** thoroughly after this activity. Avoid touching nose, eyes and mouth when you have wet or dirty hands.
- For ponds which are too deep for an adult to perform a wading rescue, **suitable rescue equipment** such as a reach pole or a throw line should be provided. Never enter the water if you drop something – the pond may be deeper than it looks.
- Dress appropriately for the weather and outdoor work. Children and adults should wear **appropriate footwear** – we recommend wellies or sturdy shoes.
- Any adult acting in a supervisory role should be **adequately trained**, including the use of rescue equipment, and ideally first aid.
- If your pond isn't **physically accessible** for everyone, fill up a bucket from the pond so it can be transported.
- Return all creatures **back in the pond** once you are finished and **do not take any home** with you. Remind everyone to be careful when putting them back... tipping the tray can be like a massive waterfall for the creatures!
- Afterwards, **wash all trays and nets** you used before using them for different activities or in a different pond – this helps limit the spread of disease.

