



# SCHOOL PONDS

## Safety Guide

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## KEY BENEFITS

### Ecosystem Learning

Deepens understanding of lifecycles and ecosystems.

### Environmental Stewardship

Encourages stewardship through habitat care and monitoring.

### Fieldwork Skills

Builds fieldwork skills including safe sampling and recording.

### Wellbeing

Supports wellbeing with calm, purposeful outdoor study.

**KEY HAZARDS & CONTROL MEASURES****Drowning Risk**

- ✓ Perimeter fencing with locked gate
- ✓ Rescue equipment readily available
- ✓ Close supervision during activities
- ✓ Maximum depth clearly marked

**Slips & Falls**

- ✓ Non-slip surfaces on platforms
- ✓ Handrails on boardwalks
- ✓ Bank edges maintained and stable
- ✓ Clear pathways to pond area

**Water Quality**

- ✓ Regular water quality checks
- ✓ Algae monitoring in warm weather
- ✓ Hand washing after activities
- ✓ Cover cuts before pond work

**Equipment Misuse**

- ✓ Equipment demonstration given
- ✓ Appropriate ratios maintained
- ✓ Tools checked before use
- ✓ Clear rules communicated

**PRE-SESSION SAFETY CHECKLIST****Risk Assessment**

- Complete and review risk assessment for this activity
- Brief all staff on key risks and emergency procedures
- Ensure all identified hazards have control measures in place

**Access**

- Gate locked when unused
- Warning signs displayed
- Fencing intact
- Key holders identified

**Pond Area**

- Banks stable
- Water quality checked
- Platforms secure
- Depth markers visible

**Rescue**

- Throw line available
- First aid kit present
- Reaching pole accessible
- Emergency numbers posted

**Supervision**

- Ratios confirmed
- Staff positioned
- Briefing completed
- Hand wash station ready



RISK ASSESSMENT  
WIZARD

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