

# How To Upcycle A Kiddie Pool Into A Tranquil Garden Water Wall

Upcycling a [kiddie pool into a garden water](#) wall may sound unconventional, but it's a simple, low-cost way to introduce flowing water to a garden or patio. No digging. No expensive kits. Just a shallow plastic pool repurposed as a concealed base for a vertical cascade.

A small pump recirculates water through flexible tubing, which flows gently down a wall of bamboo, tile, or corrugated metal. Both the appearance and water sound can be adjusted by changing the surface material. Because the reservoir is hidden and self-contained, there's no need for permanent changes to the landscape. It's an efficient upgrade for patios, balconies, and compact gardens where space and budget are limited.

This approach also gives new life to a [pool that might otherwise sit unused](#). That same piece of gear becomes something functional, clean-lined, and water-smart. It adds motion and texture to your garden in the process.

## Set the reservoir that keeps the water moving

The kiddie pool serves as the [hidden base of the water wall](#), collecting and recirculating water through the entire system. It should sit on level ground, ideally in a shaded area near a power or solar source to help [reduce evaporation and simplify setup](#). If the pool is brightly colored or weather-worn, coat the exterior with water-resistant spray paint or conceal it with mulch, pavers, or planter boxes. Concealing the reservoir is simple, but placement and leveling are equally important. A flat, stable base is essential since uneven placement can strain the pump and disrupt water flow.

A submersible pump rated for outdoor use sits inside the pool and sends water upward through flexible tubing. Choose a [pump with a vertical lift](#) (also called "max head") that matches the height of your wall panel. Run tubing to the top of the structure, leaving enough slack to adjust the position once the frame is in place. To keep the system running efficiently, block debris before it reaches the pump. Mesh, landscape fabric, or a flat stone placed over the intake can act as a natural filter while blending into the setup.

## Build the vertical frame to support the wall

The frame holds the water wall's surface and gives the structure its overall shape. It should be tall enough for visual impact, sturdy enough to handle wind and rain, and aligned with the reservoir so water returns cleanly to the base. A basic rectangular frame made from [pressure-treated lumber](#) or PVC is sufficient for most builds. Reinforce the joints with galvanized brackets or exterior screws, and anchor the base securely into the ground, a deck, or weighted planters filled with gravel.

Before attaching the wall surface, route the pump tubing behind the frame or through a notch near the top. Keep the outlet centered at the top of the wall where water exits. Tubing can be clipped, tied, or [stapled using garden wire](#), but it should remain secure and free of sharp bends

that could restrict pressure. If the wall sits near a fence or house, confirm there's enough clearance to avoid splash and promote airflow. A [stable structure supports smooth water flow](#) and helps the feature run cleanly and consistently.

## **Attach a panel surface that guides the water and defines the look**

The panel [material affects how the wall looks, sounds, and functions](#). Some surfaces create a soft trickle, while others produce a louder splash or sheet effect. Choose a material that fits both your design style and sound preference. Each option creates a different effect. [Bamboo fencing is lightweight](#), easy to install, and produces a gentle sound. Corrugated metal adds a modern edge with sharper resonance. Tile or stone offers a clean, structured appearance and suits more formal layouts. Reclaimed wood can work too, though it often requires sealing to resist moisture.

Whatever material you use, make sure it's waterproof, weather-resistant, and stiff enough to hold shape when wet. Avoid anything that warps, softens, or absorbs water over time. Attach the panel securely with screws or heavy-duty staples, and ensure it sits flush to prevent splashing or uneven flow. A narrow trough, drip line, or perforated bar across the top helps distribute water evenly. Keep the outlet centered and adjust as needed to fine-tune the flow. Small changes here can sharpen both coverage and sound.