



Newt Fencing Pitfall Traps

Specification Sheet
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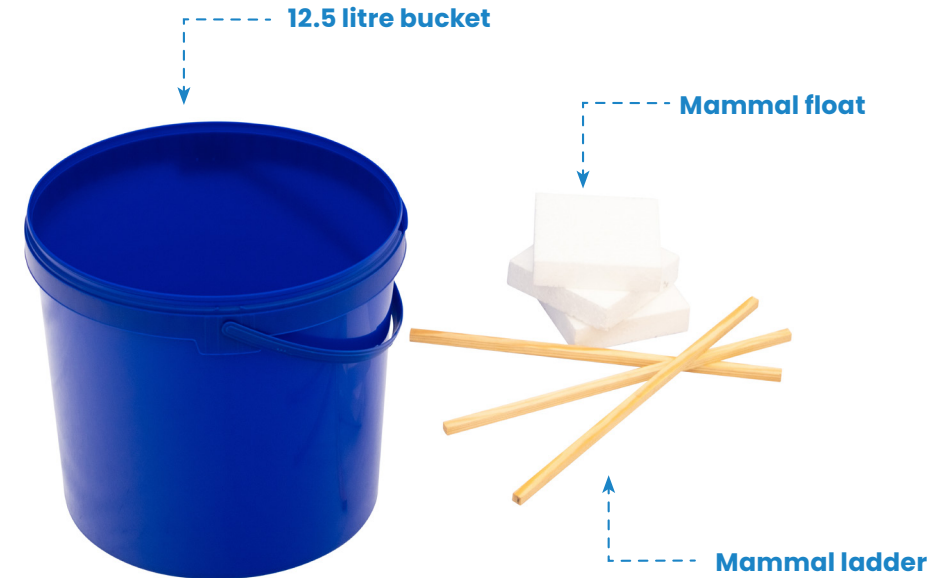
Newt Fence Pitfall Traps & Refuge Tiles

When installing Newt Fencing, there is an option to additionally install Pitfall Traps and Refuge Tiles. The purpose of both of these products is to help gather newts and other amphibious creatures where Newt fencing has been installed to safely collect, relocate them to more suitable habitat.

Pitfall Traps are made up of a 12.5 litre plastic bucket, mammal ladder strip wood and mammal float and are used to allow newts or any other amphibious creatures which fall into and to be safely contained.

The mammal ladder is a strip wood and is 9mm x 9mm x 330mm. This is placed in the bucket and angled to allow any unwanted mammals that fall into the bucket to escape.

The mammal float is a polystyrene Block (100mm x 100mm x 25mm) which is typically placed in the bucket to prevent any mammals from drowning when wet weather conditions occur.



Refuge Tiles are 500mm x 500mm and to create the ideal environment for amphibians and reptiles to shelter under. This can make it easier to find and gather newts where you need to relocate them.



Pitfall Traps and Refuge Tiles installed



What is Newt Fencing?

Newt fencing is a wildlife barrier that controls the movement of newts, amphibians, and other reptiles, whilst protecting endangered species such as the Great Crested Newt within safe areas of their natural habitat. Newt fencing is also used to keep newts safe from harm during construction and development projects.

While suitable for all species of newts and other amphibians, it is most commonly installed in conservation efforts for this protected species.

The Great Crested Newt is safeguarded under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 as well as the Habitats Regulations 1994, making it an offense to deliberately kill, capture, or disturb these newts, or to damage, destroy, or interfere with their habitat. If Great Crested Newts or their habitats are present on or near a development site, developers may be required to install appropriate fencing. This prevents newts from entering and ensures they can be safely collected and transferred to a more suitable habitat before any groundwork begins.

Designed with conservation and compliance in mind, secure a receptor area to establish breeding populations and habitat, our fencing supports the protection of these endangered species while facilitating responsible development.





Pitfall Traps Advice & Tips

Pitfall traps must be flush with the barrier fence and slightly below ground level for effective use. Regular inspections are crucial, especially after heavy rain or dry weather, to ensure traps remain properly seated and functional. In wet conditions, particularly on clay soils, traps may need pegging to prevent them from popping out due to rising water tables. Before reseating a trap, the area should be searched for newts.

For free-draining soils, drilling drainage holes can help. Traps should typically be spaced 5–10 meters apart, with higher densities around key areas like breeding ponds.

To accommodate shrews, traps must include escape ladders (e.g. twigs under 1 cm in diameter) or comply with specific licensing conditions. Traps must be checked daily between 06:00 and 11:00 to be stocked with moist vegetation for amphibian refuge; replenished as needed. In flood-prone areas, add a floating raft, such as tree bark.





Pitfall Trap & Refuge Tile Setup

Pitfall traps should generally be spaced 5 to 10 metres apart. However, more frequent traps may increase capture rates which may be suitable in key areas such as breeding ponds or rubble piles.

To improve capture chances, suitable refuges like carpet tiles can be placed along the fence line at regular intervals such as the pitfall traps. These refuges should fit flush against the fence and may take about two weeks to settle enough to become effective. Rubber-backed carpet off-cuts (approximately 50 cm square) are moderately effective at creating the humid conditions needed and are heavy enough to resist being blown away. In areas with hard surfaces where pitfall trapping is impractical, these refuges can serve as an alternative method for capturing newts.

