



STATUARY CARE AND INFORMATION

Thank you for purchasing your new statuary from Merrifield Garden Center. To ensure that your items last through the years, we would like to share with you some basic care and maintenance tips that will prolong their life. It is important to understand that proper winter care is required for any concrete, fiberglass, resin, or stone statuary to protect them from the freeze-thaw cycles that occur during the winter.

Any piece which can hold water, snow, or ice -- such as a planter, birdbath / fountain top or bowl -- and any piece which is placed directly on the ground -- such as a statue, birdbath / fountain base, planter or bench leg -- can be damaged by the winter freeze-thaw cycles that occur in our area. To minimize any possible winter damage, please follow the simple suggestions listed below:

Cast Stone Planters

If a planter is to be left planted over the winter, we suggest that you raise it up off the ground by placing two pressure treated wood strips underneath it, making sure not to block the drainage hole. This will allow the water in the soil to drain and will prevent the planter from freezing to the ground. If a planter is placed directly on the ground and goes through several freeze-thaw cycles, drainage holes could get blocked. This may cause an expansion of the soil inside the planter, which in turn may cause the planter to crack or crumble.

If a planter is not to be planted over the winter, we suggest that it be stored in a garage, shed, or on a porch protected from the elements. However, if a planter must be left outside during the winter unplanted, we suggest that you empty the soil and turn the planter upside down onto wood strips. Also, you should then cover or wrap the planter with burlap or any absorbent material (old blanket, towel) and cover it with dark plastic. This will prevent moisture from getting into the planter.

Birdbaths, Fountains, Benches & Statuary

We suggest that birdbath / fountain tops not be left outside in the winter. Once the top fills with water or snow and freezes, the top may crack. All birdbath / fountain bases, bench legs and statuary should be raised up off the ground in winter so they will not freeze to the surface of the ground.

Ideally, a fountain should be stored indoors during the winter away from the elements. However, if a fountain bowl must be left outside, remove all drain pipes / plugs and cover the top in accordance with the planter instructions above, making sure that water does not accumulate in the basin, where it could freeze. Fountain pumps, fountain finials and other small components should be stored indoors.

One good way to help keep all statuary from freezing to the ground is to install the items on a piece of flagstone or a bed of bluestone dust. Thanks, and enjoy your new statuary.

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