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## Winter Care for Fountains, Birdbaths & Statuary

One of the most common questions we hear is what to do with a garden fountain or accessory in the winter. Proper winter care is advised for any garden fountain or statuary that can hold water, snow, or ice, such as a planter or birdbath that can be damaged by the winter freeze-thaw cycle. Below are some suggestions for minimizing the possibility of damage to your garden fountains and accessories.

### 1. Original Placement:

Try to always place your statuary, benches or birdbaths on a firm, solid foundation. While this seems basic, consider that accumulated water or ice can make a fountain imbalanced, and can cause a garden fountain or birdbath to topple.

### 2. Concrete Benches/Bird baths/Statuary/Shells:

Bird bath tops should not remain outside in winter because if it fills with water, snow and freezes, the natural expansion effect will cause it to crack. If possible, birdbaths should be stored indoors in winter, be it garage or garden shed. Otherwise store the top and wrap the base with bubble wrap, burlap and cover. Also, concrete bench legs, decorative statuary, and garden fountains should be raised off the ground in the winter to avoid the possible damage which could result if the product freezes to the ground surface.

### 3. Products made from Concrete:

For planters to be left in place, with plants in them, over the winter, here are a few suggestions. First, raise it off the ground. This can be accomplished by placing two pressure treated wood planks under the edges of the planter. Take care not to block the drainage hole. Contact with the wet ground during a freeze-thaw could cause your planters to crack, chip, or crumble. Secondly, if possible, bring the planter indoors during the winter. Even if it is in cold, unheated garage, at least it will be dry. Third, if you must leave an unplanted container outdoors during the winter, turn it upside down, on the aforementioned treated lumber strips, and cover with burlap or other absorbent material, i.e. bubble wrap/insulation and then cover with thick, dark plastic, like lawn & leaf trash bags.