



Winter Care

**Cast Stone Concrete
Fountains & Birdbaths**



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The Cold Weather Effect

Many of the natural ingredients used in decorative concrete can expand and contract in different temperatures & humidity levels. If the temps fall below 32°F, you'll want to take precautionary steps to help ensure smooth transitions from season to season.

Step 1 of 3: Prepare for Freezing Temperatures & Winter Storage

1 - Completely drain the fountain. It's important to prevent water from pooling anywhere – the freezing and thawing of water can cause damage to a pump and form cracks. Remove the drain plugs and use a wet-vac when needed, to **remove all water from the shells and any other part that holds water.**

2 - Bag the internal components. Collect drain plugs/stoppers, tubing, lights, etc. into a plastic bag for storage indoors. While a pump can remain in the feature for the winter, it's recommended to bring it indoors as well. If you choose to leave it outside, it must be completely dry and insulated with plastic bags and a towel to ensure it stays dry.

Birdbaths

When exposed to freezing temperatures, ice can form inside a birdbath which may damage the surface. **Consider storing your bird bath indoors (garage or shed is fine).**

- If you leave your bird bath outdoors during winter, turn the top over so water will not collect in it. Do not allow the pedestal to sit in a pool of ice or freeze to the ground.
- Raise the birdbath using two wood strips to prevent it from freezing to the ground.

*We do **not** recommend the use of heating or de-icing devices for cast stone birdbaths.*

Step 2 of 3: Relocation Options (when feasible, otherwise skip to #3)

- 1 - Bring the feature indoors when possible (i.e., smaller fountains).
- 2 - Store in a dry and covered location if unable to bring inside.
- 3 - Elevate the fountain off the ground, as concrete may freeze to the ground and cause cracking in the base if left outside in the winter.

Step 3 of 3: Cover the Fountain

Make sure to use a breathable material when covering. Avoid using plastic if possible!
Make sure the cover is drawn taut so that no snow, ice, or water can pool on it.

Tie the opening at the bottom of the cover around the fountain.

Check your fountain periodically through the winter to ensure the cover is secure and that neither water nor ice has collected on its surface. **Keep your fountain free of water, ice, and condensation.**

► **Fountains with a Pool/Basin:** After removing the drainage plug in the basin, use something absorbent (like a comforter) to place inside the basin to absorb moisture. Then, cover the basin with a tarp.

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PLEASE NOTE

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