



**Surface &
Winter Care
Cast Stone Concrete
Benches & Planters**



fountainful

Surface Care for Benches & Planters

A color stain applied to concrete will weather naturally over time, gracefully aging in its own unique way into the environment where your feature has been placed.

- ▶ Cast stone concrete can be cleaned with diluted vinegar & water, or with any commercially available mild detergent.
- ▶ Use a soft cloth, sponge, or brush. DO NOT PRESSURE WASH, apply corrosive cleaners, or clean with anything abrasive.

It may take several cycles of wiping and drying before the concrete is fully clean.

- ▶ Cast stone contains salts that may *effloresce* over time, creating a fine white powdery coating on the surface. If you wish to remove the salt deposits, we recommended [ProTec Scale & Stain Remover](#).



Additional Guidance for Planters

- ▶ **Drainage holes must be kept clear** to maintain the longevity of your planter, *especially in climates that undergo freeze/thaw cycles in the winter.*

Recommendations

- Cover drainage holes with a mesh screen (or equivalent) to prevent clogs from debris.
- Fill the bottom of the planter with non-porous drainage material such as small stones or terra cotta chips to ensure proper drainage.
- Fill the remainder of the planter with a well-draining soil mix that will not retain water.
- Cover soil with decorative mulch or pine bark to the top rim, to discourage water from pooling on the surface.



Winter Care

Planters

- If left *planted*: raise the planter off of the ground to prevent the planter from freezing to the surface. **Tip**: place two pressure-treated wood strips of an appropriate size under the planter – just don't block drainage holes.
 - If a planter is placed directly on the ground and goes through several freeze-thaw cycles, drainage may be blocked. This may cause an expansion of the soil inside the planter, which in turn may cause the planter to crack or crumble.
- If left *empty*: turn the planter upside down onto wood strips. Next, cover or wrap it with burlap or any absorbent material (old blanket/towel) and then wrap with dark plastic. This will prevent moisture from accumulating in the planter.
- If *relocation* is possible: store the planter in a covered area where it will be protected from the elements.

Benches

- If a bench is to remain outside during the winter, raise its legs off the ground with sturdy wooden strips to prevent damage from freeze/thaw cycles.



PLEASE NOTE

Even if a cast stone container is raised off the ground, there is always the risk that it will absorb water through its surface which, when frozen, can cause the planter to crack or break.