

## **Cast Stone Product Care and Information**

Proper winter care is required for all cast stone products. Proper maintenance is necessary to protect your product from the freeze-thaw cycles that occur in the winter. Anything that can hold water, snow, or ice, such as a planter, birdbath top, shell and anything that sits directly on the ground, such as a statue, birdbath base, planter, or bench leg, can be damaged by the winter freeze-thaw cycles. To minimize any possible winter damage, please follow the simple suggestions listed below:

### **I. Cast Stone Planters**

If a planter is to be left planted over the winter, we suggest that you raise it up off of the ground by placing 2 pressure treated wood strips underneath the planter making sure not to block the drainage hole. This will allow the soil to drain and will prevent the planter from freezing to the ground. If the planter is sitting directly on the ground and goes through several freeze-thaw cycles, the drainage will be blocked and this may cause an expansion of the soil, which in turn may crack or cause the planter to crumble. We also suggest placing gravel or filter material over the hole below planting the dirt to help keep the hole open. This will allow the planter to drain.

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 away from the elements.

If the planter is not to be left outside unplanted, we suggest that you empty the soil and turn the planter upside down onto wood strips and then cover or wrap the planter with burlap or any absorbent material and then cover with dark plastic. This will prevent any moisture from getting into the planter.

### **II. Birdbaths, Benches, Fountains & Statuary**

We suggest that birdbath tops and fountains not be left outside in the winter. Once the bowl fills with water/snow and freezes, it may crack. All stone products should be raised up off the ground for the winter season so as to avoid freezing to the ground surface and absorbing water.

**\*We recommend that any stone products be sealed to prevent water from soaking inside the concrete during the winter. Sealing with a good commercial grade sealer will protect the stone product from deterioration.**

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