



J&L Garden Center

*The All Season Gift
and Garden Center*

620 North 500 West Bountiful, Utah 292-0421

www.JLGardenCenter.com

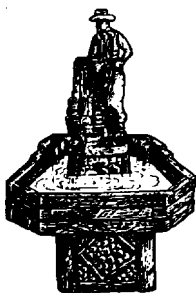
Cement Planter, Birdbath, & Fountain Care

Extreme and rapid changes in temperature and humidity affects all concrete adversely. Concrete has an inherent tendency to expand and contract with climatic conditions (a phenomenon taken into account by experienced masons and cement workers who install expansion joints - like the "lines" in sidewalks). Cement expands during the summer and contracts during the winter. Proper care of cement planters, birdbaths, statues, benches, and fountains will help keep them looking their best for many years.



General Care

Cement planters, birdbaths, fountains and statuary has been manufactured with the weather in mind. The concrete mix contains fibers and mechanical additives which enhance the elastic qualities of the concrete. The components are further reinforced with steel. Normal, unharmed, surface shrinkage cracks may sometimes appear - but your planter, fountain and statue will not crack through, due to weather, if two important rules are followed:



1. **Do not allow water to collect and freeze in the bowl or shell.**
2. **Do not allow the fountain to sit in a pool of ice!**

Winter Damage

Fountains and birdbaths are most susceptible to winter damage because they hold water all summer. If the water penetrates into the concrete during the summer the water inside the concrete will freeze in the winter. Shells and bowls left exposed to icing conditions may shale and crack due to the mechanical



force of the water freezing and expanding along the concrete surface. The same principle also applies to concrete planters and statues: make sure that planters are drained of water and are above any snow or water that may accumulate during the winter, or similar freezing and cracking

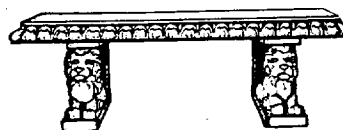
may occur. Statues may also sustain winter damage if they are left outside during the winter, sitting in a pool of water or if the concrete base has absorbed water during the summer.

Winter Storage

The best method to protect all cement products from winter damage is to take them inside a shed, garage or basement for the winter. Keeping them away from the freezing and thawing cycles of winter will help your fountain last for years. Unfortunately not all cement products are easy to move and many people do not have inside storage facilities available. For the situations where the cement products must stay outside for the winter, start preparing you planter, fountain, birdbath, or statue for winter storage during the spring or summer.



Natural aging and weathering may open little cracks in the paint or sealer, allowing water to penetrate into the cement. Applying a clear concrete sealer in the spring, every two or three years, will help to prevent water from penetrating into the concrete. Repainting or touching up damaged areas will also help prevent water penetration. Protecting cement products from water and ice is the most important part of winter prevention.



If you must leave your fountain, or other cement products, outside for the winter, remove

the pump and statue. Drain the bowl and let it completely dry before the first frost. Fill the bowl, after it is completely dry, with burlap bags or blankets to absorb any water that may still be in the bowl or that may accidentally accumulate in the bowl during the winter. The burlap will also shield the bowl from the sun's heat during the winter, preventing the freezing and thawing cycles during the day. If possible turn the bowl upside down for the winter. Cover the entire fountain with a heavy-duty plastic that will not tear easily during the winter. Secure the plastic with heavy-duty twine. You have now protected your fountain for the winter season.

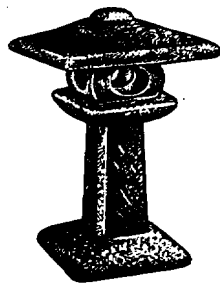


Summer Maintenance

Little or nothing needs to be done to protect the finish of concrete statuary, other than preventing water from penetrating into the concrete. If the luster of the paint fades, an annual application of a clear aerosol paint may be applied without damaging the finish. If you want to repaint your fountain, refinishing kits are available from **J&L Garden Center** by special order. The paint originally used on your fountain was a fast drying, water inhibiting paint designed to last for years. The refinishing kit may take two weeks to arrive so plan accordingly. If you just need to touch up a spot or two, almost any type of paint will do the job. Oil based paints are best for sticking to the cement when immersed in water. If you have a few dings or broken pieces to repair, **Bondo**, a car repair material, works great to repair the damage. Repaint the repaired area with an oil based paint. Major broken pieces can be re-attached by using a concrete glue, then fill in the cracks with **bondo** and repaint.



Algae and lime buildups are two common problems in birdbaths and fountains during the summer. The best control for these two problems is a regular cleaning with **Henri Fountain Cleaner** which is an easy way to foam away mineral buildups without damaging the concrete or paint finishes. A good scrub brush will also remove any



unwanted algae or lime buildup. Chemical algae preventers are not recommended because of the damage they may cause to surrounding plants.

Fountain Guarantee

J&L Garden Center guarantees our cement fountains, bird baths, statuary, cement planters and benches for one full year from the date of purchase from any defects in material or workmanship, **if they are taken inside during the winter.** We do not guarantee these products from damage due to abuse, neglect, vandalism, or improper care of the item. We do not guarantee fountains, bird baths, statuary, cements planters, or benches against damage from any weather related problems. Freezing and thawing can be major winter problems with all cement products that must be prevented.



All damaged items must be returned to J&L Garden Center to qualify for replacement.

