



## Winterizing Fountains

Winter weather can be tough on outdoor fountains, but with a little preparation, you can keep yours safe and ready to enjoy when warmer days return. Follow these simple steps to protect your fountain from freezing temperatures, snow, and ice damage.

**1. Drain the Fountain Completely**

Before freezing temperatures arrive, turn off the pump and drain all water from the fountain. Be sure to remove the drain plugs entirely for the winter. Even a small amount of water can freeze, expand, and cause cracks or damage.

**2. Clean the Fountain**

Remove dirt, algae, and debris from the surface and basin. Use a non-abrasive cleaner to protect the fountain's finish and ensure it's clean before covering or storing.

**3. Store the Pump Indoors**

Disconnect and thoroughly dry the pump before storing it indoors. Freezing water inside the pump can cause irreversible damage.

**4. Cover the Fountain**

Use a weatherproof, breathable fountain cover to protect it from snow, ice, and debris. **DO NOT COVER IN PLASTIC.** Ensure the cover fits securely and prevents moisture from collecting inside.

**5. Elevate the Fountain**

Fountains can freeze to the ground and cause cracks in the base if left outside during the winter. When possible, place the fountain on blocks or a raised surface to prevent water from pooling at the base.

**6. Consider Moving Smaller Fountains Indoors**

For smaller, lightweight fountains it's best to move them to a garage or shed for the winter.

**7. Inspect Regularly**

Periodically check your covered fountain to ensure the cover remains secure and no water has accumulated.

**8. Don't Use De-icers**

Avoid adding salt or other chemicals to melt ice in your fountain, as they can damage the material and harm nearby plants.

By taking these steps, you can help ensure your fountain is ready to flow beautifully again in the spring!