



Gardeners Helping Gardeners Succeed

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Winter Care for Statuary

Extreme cold and heat with rapid changes in temperature and humidity affect all concrete adversely. Concrete has a tendency to expand and contract with climate changes, especially in the Northern Nevada area.

Your fountain and statuary items need to be protected during the winters of this area. The concrete mixture in your item(s) contains fiber and mechanical additives which enhance the elastic quality of concrete. However, normal, unharmed surface shrinkage will appear - but your fountain and statuary item(s) will not crack through due to weather if one important rule is followed:

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

All statuary items, when possible, should be wrapped or put inside when the snow level is 3 inches or more.

Shells and bowls left exposed to icing weather conditions may crack or peel, due to the mechanical force of water solidifying and expanding along the concrete surface. The same principle also applies to all concrete statuary.

If your fountain or statuary cannot be stored inside during the winter months, you must protect it from the elements.

First, remove the statue and pump and store in a dry spot or inside.

Next, turn the bowl upside down, if feasible.

If this is not possible, take an absorbent material (blankets, burlap bags, etc.) and cover the inside of the bowl, then cover the entire fountain with heavy duty plastic and secure with twine. Should condensation get through to the fountain, the material inside will absorb the moisture.

You now have protected your fountain and statuary items for the winter months.

Please make sure to check your statuary and fountains thoroughly before taking them home. There is no guarantee on these items.