

## **Bring Your Garden Accents Indoors For ‘Inner Pleasure’**

**Quakertown, PA** – The handsome new planters on your deck or patio were a sight to behold this summer. Overflowing with brightly colored flowers, they brought you pleasure all summer. But now that the colder weather is setting in do you need to clean them and store them out of sight where no one can enjoy them?

“The answer is no,” says Peter C. Cilio of Campania International, Inc., distributors of fine garden accessories. “Clean them out and bring them indoors to use as accent pieces during the holidays and winter months.”

With 25 years in the garden business, the folks at Campania have used garden accessories in hundreds of creative ways--with and without plants.



"Our products can really make a statement when they are brought indoors," says Cilio. "For example, our small cast stone Montella Birdbath creates a beautiful setting in the foyer when filled with candles, greens and dried fruit."

The company's traditional European and American cast stone and terra cotta garden accessories have become "collectibles." Each is hand finished and cherished by the finest gardeners for its traditional design, quality of detail and distinctive finish.

Here are some creative ways Campania uses garden accessories indoors, but if you let your imagination run wild you will find many reasons to enjoy your planters and birdbaths all winter.

- Fill an urn, such as the cast stone Mission Style Urn, with fruit and set it on your table as a centerpiece when you are entertaining guests.
- Keep a large cast stone planter by your door to catch umbrellas or gloves, mittens, hats or other winter paraphernalia tossed by your kids as they race into the house.
- Fill containers or a small birdbath with gourds and small pumpkins as an autumn decorative accessory. Don't forget to add a few stalks of wheat, colored leaves or other fall accent pieces.
- An elegant planter box on risers would look handsome set by your fireplace full of kindling or pinecones.
- Move an urn into your kitchen let it hold apples, potatoes or onions.
- Use your birdbath in the bathroom to hold towels and washcloths or soaps and candles.

- For parties, fill an empty lightweight container with ice to keep beverages tastefully cold.
- And of course planters can hold plenty of magazines and newspapers.

#### **PROPER PROTECTION PROLONGS LIFE**

If not brought indoors, proper winter care of your outdoor planters is a must if you want to prolong their planting beauty, Cilio warns.

In order to minimize possible winter damage a few care tips should be followed.

- Unless you leave them planted over the winter, all planters should be brought indoors and stored out of the winter elements.
- Unplanted cast stone planters left outside must be emptied, turned upside down, placed on wood strips, covered with clean burlap or other absorbent material, then wrapped with a dark plastic.
- Planted containers left over the winter should be raised off the ground by placing them on two pressure treated wood strips, making sure not to block the drainage hole. This will prevent the planter from freezing to the ground. Freeze-thaw cycles of planters left on the ground may cause them to crack or crumble.
- Winter freeze-thaw cycles cause terra cotta planters to freeze and crack. All terra cotta planters should be stored indoors over the winter.

"With a little imagination," Cilio says, "planters and garden accent pieces are clearly versatile and elegant enough to bring indoors for four seasons of enjoyment -- and an extended life."

For more information on Campania's line of products, visit your local garden center or go to [www.campaniainternational.com](http://www.campaniainternational.com).