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WINTER-IZING GARDEN ACCESSORIES

Quakertown, PA -- Mother Nature “naturalizes” cast stone and terra cotta garden accessories, but the harsh forces of winter can cause fine planters, bird baths and statuary to crack and crumble.

According to the “garden accessory connoisseurs” at Campania International, a little care will help your garden ‘art’ last for generations.

CAST STONE

“Keep cast stone up off freezing ground,” says Peter C. Cilio, vice president of marketing for Campania. “If a cast stone planter or statuary remains directly a surface which freezes and thaws, which may cause it to crack or crumble.”

If a planter is left planted outside over the winter, raise it off the ground so it will drain and not freeze to the surface. Simply place the container on two pressure treated wood strips, making sure not to block the drainage hole.

If a container is to remain unplanted, Campania suggests you store it in a garage or a shed. Empty unplanted containers that remain outside should be turned upside down, placed on wood strips, wrapped with clean burlap and then covered with dark plastic.

Store cast stone birdbath tops and shells indoors in winter. If the bowl fills with water or snow and freezes, the top may crack. Birdbath bases, bench legs and statuary should also be raised off the ground in the winter to keep them from freezing to the ground.

“If the base does freeze to the surface, don’t try to move it,” warns Cilio. “Wait until a thaw or you could damage it.”

TERRA COTTA PLANTERS

Terra cotta planters absorb moisture and are subject to winter freeze-thaw cycles which cause them to crack and peel. Store them indoors over the winter.

POLYETHYLENE PLANTERS/STATUARY

If this sounds like too much work, don’t despair. Not only are poly planters and statuary extremely lightweight and durable, but they resist extreme temperatures and weather fluctuations, too. You can leave these great garden accessories outside. You don’t have to raise them off the ground or cover them.

We’ve finally gotten over the “snob appeal” problem many people had with poly pots,” says Cilio. “Our poly pots have to be touched to determine if they are polyethylene or terra cotta they look that real.”

Whether you use the ‘real thing’ or the poly pots, a little care keeps garden treasures not just for years, but for generations.

For more care tips, visit: www.campaniainternational.com.