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GENERAL STATUARY MAINTENANCE

Your Concrete Statuary will provide you with years of pleasure with minimum attention. Roman Concrete Statues still stand today with little to no maintenance. Modern mixes are far superior in strength and durability. Making it easy to say that “your Concrete Statuary will last for several generations to come!”

CONCRETE FACTS

Little or nothing needs to be done to protect the finish of natural concrete statuary, whether it be a fountain, birdbath, statue, etc.. Many people find the aging and weathering of concrete statuary to be appealing. It can make the piece look more natural, giving it character. But this natural weathering may be stopped if you wish, by an application of clear concrete sealer. Concrete is porous, can absorb moisture and needs to breathe. To ensure your statue's longevity we recommend following these care suggestions:

- Consider the perfect spot to place your concrete statuary. Over time, road salt & chemical deicer will deteriorate the concrete and direct sun light will fade colors.
- It is a good idea to clean your statuary every few months to remove dirt & debris. Spray the statue with a garden hose. Use warm soapy water and a vegetable brush to clean the surface. Rinse well. This will stop the debris from trapping moisture in the pours. Keep Birdbath & Fountain water clear from unsightly sludge, algae and cloudiness. Follow pump guidelines for pump maintenance.

If algae occurs you can use an algacide/clarifier found at your local pool/pond supply store. Hard water stains are easy to deter but not as easy to fix after the problem has occurred. We strongly recommend that you start using this product when you first purchase your fountain, especially if it has a dark finish. You can find this at our local pool/pond supply store.

- Apply concrete sealer every year. Leave bottom unsealed to allow concrete to breathe.

REPAIRS

We use BONDO. It is a two part mix. After you mix and apply it, hold in place for about five to ten minutes so it has time to bond. Before it is fully cured, remove excess BONDO with a knife or scraper. Then touch-up with latex paint.

WINTERIZING

The optimal place to store your bird baths, flower pots, fountains & statues would be indoors. Generally, this is not feasible. The key is to not let water stand anywhere on the concrete. Leaving outside; Lift the base of the statue off the ground. Use wood or tiles to separate the statue from the ground. Do not cover. If you feel the need to cover, only use breathable material such as burlap. Plastic tarps will trap moisture causing freezing and thawing.

(OVER)

FLOWER POTS

Ideally, storing inside is best. Second best is to dump contents and store upside down. The most practical option; Before you plant flowers, put some rocks in the bottom of your flower pot so the excess water can drain. Also, make sure that your soil is level with the top of the flower pot to keep water from standing and freezing. When water stands and freezes it expands the concrete and can cause it to crack over time.

BIRD BATHS

If you are NOT going to leave water in it for the birds, then you should take the bowl off and lean it against the pedestal so that it doesn't hold water. (or cover with a board) If water freezes in the bowl it can expand the concrete and cause it to crack. Remove the pump if possible. (DO NOT use anti-freeze. It is not necessary and is very harmful to animals and humans.)

If you are going to leave water in the birdbath for the birds, we recommend that you use a birdbath heater. This keeps the water just warm enough so it doesn't freeze.

FOUNTAINS

All basins need to be drained. Most of our fountains have a drain hole. Pull the plug that you pump electrical cord feeds through so the water can drain. Clean out any remaining debris from the drain holes. It is always good to check before a hard freeze to make sure the drain hole is clear. If your fountain does not have a drain hole, you can flip the bowl over and leave it leaning against the pedestal or drill a small hole with a masonry bit for drainage. The most important thing is not to let water freeze in your bowls.

HOW TO PAINT FOR LONG LASTING RESULTS

- Use a garden hose & vegetable brush to clean off any debris.
- Prepare paint. The base coat is a mixture of paint & water. Use EXTERIOR FLAT LATEX PAINT of your choice. Mix 60% paint & 40% water. Now, re wet your statue and start painting the entire piece. Wetting the statue and the paint mixture allows the base coat to ABSORB into the pores of the piece. The further down it absorbs the longer it will last. Base coats are generally a dark color like black. I usually do a couple coats. Let dry.
- We use a dry brush method for next coat. Choose your highlight color. Usually lighter. Dip your brush in paint can and then wipe off about 90% of the paint. (I use unwanted card board from empty pop cases or cereal boxes.) Use a dusting motion to cover the piece. Continue to cover until it looks good to you. You can always paint over it if you want.
- Use traditional paint technic with full coverage to detail as little or as much as you'd like.
- We suggest covering finished piece with clear coat to prolong paint color life.