

How to Winterize Your Water Fountain

In order to keep your water fountain in good working order, it is essential to drain all water from the fountain before the temperature goes below 32°F and water freezes. If frozen, water left in a fountain may cause cracks in the basin and can ruin the pump. Follow the steps below to winterize your water fountain!



STEP 1: Unplug & Clean the Fountain Pump

Unplug the pump and protect the cord—if possible, remove the pump from the fountain. Leaving the pump in your fountain through Fall and Winter can cause damage if water enters the basin.

Open the pump for cleaning and remove any buildup of organic material or debris with a cloth soaked in soapy, warm water. If the algae is especially thick and coating the pump, soak the pump in a solution of hot water and vinegar for one hour. Toothbrushes are helpful for scrubbing hard-to-reach places.

Clear out the pump tube by forcing water through it using the “jet” setting on your hose end sprayer. Thoroughly rinse and dry all parts of the pump before safely storing them away for Winter. If you have a tiered fountain, it’s a good idea to disassemble it at the end of Fall and store at least the top tiers in the garage.



STEP 2: Drain the Water from the Fountain

If your fountain has a **quick drain feature**, use it to release the water reserve. If not, bail out the water with a cup, or siphon it off using an empty hose.



STEP 3: Clean the Inside of the Fountain

Scrub the inside of the basin with a gentle scrub brush and soapy water to remove built up algae or grime. Rinse it clean to remove any soap residue.

Then, rinse the basin with a vinegar and water solution*, and let it sit for ten minutes to remove calcium and lime buildup. Scrub the basin to work in the vinegar solution, then rinse and dry.

**Avoid using vinegar solutions on copper fountains, as this will spoil the patina.*



STEP 4: Line the Basin

Place old towels or burlap sacks in the fountain basin to help prevent damage if water finds its way inside over the Winter. They will absorb the excess moisture, preventing it from soaking into pores or cracks and making them worse.



STEP 5: Cover Your Fountain

Using a fountain cover may be the most important step to ensure that your fountain is protected during extreme weather events. While you can easily store smaller fountains away for the season, larger fountains that you cannot move will require a well-fitting cover.

Covering your fountain prevents more water from entering once it has been winterized. Depending on size, you can use a patio furniture cover or Winter barbecue cover.