

# ***WINTERIZE YOUR POTTERY***



Although most of the pottery that we sell is “freeze-proof”, you still need to take precautions to avoid winter damage to the pottery. The safest thing to do if you are going to leave the pot outside is to empty it and turn it upside down. You don’t dare leave the pot full of potting soil, which will get moist and then expand when it freezes, causing the pot to crack.

We advise people to pot up a plastic liner pot and set it into the pottery, placing it on an upside-down plastic pot to get it at the right height. Then, you can pull out the liner and pitch the contents or take them inside for the winter, without having to deal with a large piece of pottery that is full of potting soil. The reason you need to turn the pottery upside-down is that leaves can plug the hole, or a large amount of snow can accumulate, then you get some rain, and the water might not drain out fast enough. A freeze that night, before the water drains out, can cause the bottom to crack badly.

If you didn’t get a liner pot when you bought your pottery, take a measurement of the opening in the pottery next spring, and we can help you with a plastic liner to pot up.

Any terra cotta pottery or any other pottery that is not freeze proof should be taken inside for the winter. Pottery that absorbs moisture will crack if allowed to freeze.

**Bubblers:** Obviously, pots used as bubblers must be drained for the winter and turned upside down or taken in. The makers of the “Pebble Pots” that we sell claim that they can be left outside for the winter, but we worry about moisture getting in between the pebbles or tiles and causing cracking when it freezes. So our advice is to take them in for the winter. A cold garage or other building where they won’t get rained on should be fine.



The **plastic basins** for the bubblers should be fine left in the ground. They will fill up with water and freeze, but they should be able to handle that since the sides are sloped. One of our employees has had a basin left in the ground for five winters with no problem. If you want to take an extra precaution with the basin, you might pump the water out and cover the top with a piece of plywood or some plastic to keep water out. Or, you could take it out of the ground for the winter. If your basin is above ground, you might as well put it inside for the winter. **Remove the pump**, of course. Although the larger pond pumps should be stored in a bucket of water for the winter, the Ultra pumps that we sell with most of the bubblers do not need to be kept wet.



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