

CRANBORNE STONE

GENERAL INFORMATION, CARE & MAINTENANCE OF CAST STONE

HANDLING

Although cast stone is very strong in compression, like quarried stone, cast stone is can be weaker when pulled apart or stretched. To ensure that your new garden ornament arrives undamaged in its final position, we recommend you take a few minutes to plan your move;

- When moving or lifting our garden ornaments, care should be taken that you have sufficient help to achieve the lift or move safely from start to finish.
- It is important that the access to your final location is clear and firm and that you take into account steps and other changes in level that maybe a problem when moving a heavy object.
- You should ensure that you have room to maneuver along narrow pathways or through doorways.
- The surface you are placing on should be ready, level and solid. Other than a solid paved terrace or patio, a paving slab base cut into a lawn and cemented in place is recommended.
- When lifting your garden ornament avoid holding planters and vases along the very edges of the rim as this may cause damage.
- When maneuvering garden ornaments near hard surfaces we recommend protecting edges (especially thin edges) and corners with blankets or other protective materials to avoid chipping or damage.

EFFLORESCENCE or LIME BLOOM

Like all cementitious products, a white deposit may appear on the surface of casts in certain weather conditions. This is not permanent; in fact it is part of the natural weathering process and will disappear in a matter of days. If required, it can be removed using a proprietary acid washing agent or even with thin household bleach.

WEATHERING AND AGING

All of our cast stone products (unless specifically treated) are porous and will age naturally. The exact aging effect will depend entirely on the position of the garden ornament and the lichens and mosses present in the immediate environment. Over time, the casts will take on a similar patina to other natural materials (stone or brick) nearby.

Tips on aging your stone....

- Generally speaking, the damper and more shaded your location, the quicker your garden ornament will age and weather.
- Placing garden ornaments near well weathered stone will also help.
- Smearing the new casts with diluted compost or other organic solutions and rubbing in well will take the shine off a new cast, helping lichens to grow.
- Lastly, allow time to age your garden ornament with grace and elegance.

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GARDEN PLANTERS, POTS AND VASES

For an overview on care and maintenance of your new garden ornament please see the GENERAL INFORMATION, CARE & MAINTENANCE OF CAST STONE instructions as supplied.

To plant up your garden planter.....

- Once you have located your planter or vase, line the planter around the insides only with a landscape or garden geotextile, root barrier material or section of PVC pond liner.
- Cover the drainage holes at the bottom of the planter with a piece of crock and fill the planter with approximately 10cm(4") of drainage material such as high quality expanded clay balls or 10-20cm washed gravel.
- Cut a piece of the liner material that you are using into a circle and place over the drainage material. The idea is that you separate the drainage material from the soil. This prevents the soil mixing with the drainage material and blocking your drainage holes.
- At this point and before you begin to infill your planter or vase with compost, it is recommended that you cover and protect the top of the planter with some of the liner material. This prevents the compost, which might be wet from staining the top rim of the planter. Peat and compost stains will not be permanent - they will be washed out by the rain.
- Using good quality peat free compost, back fill your planter to roughly half way, gently firming the compost as you go. How much compost you use at this point will depend on the size of plant and root ball you have. Ideally you should place the stem of the plant 5cm(2") below the top of the planter.
- Place your plant in the planter or vase and gently firm more compost around the rootball until you are at the correct level around the base of the stem. Firm the soil so that the plant stands steady on its own.
- Once the plant is in place you have the aesthetic option to either spread some ornamental gravel or use some chipped bark around the base of the plant.
- Once in place your planter or vase will require very little attention, **the only rule to remember is that in summer and in very hot weather you should limit your watering times to the early morning or evening.**

Thank you for buying your new garden ornament from Cranborne Stone.

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VASE AND URN ASSEMBLY

When lifting your new vase to its final location, care should be taken that you can achieve your lift or move safely. For an overview on handling your new garden ornament please see the GENERAL INFORMATION, CARE & MAINTENANCE OF CAST STONE instructions as supplied.

In addition.....

- It is recommended that vases on pedestals be assembled using a 6mm layer of grouting between each piece - although many customers prefer not to grout casts together to allow for ease of dismantling.
- To avoid temporary stains when planting up urns or vases on necks which have not been grouted together, take care not to over water, causing the compost to run down the base: if necessary, seal the inside of the vase at the joint with the vase base neck
- You may also consider using a piece of threaded bar through from the base of the vase to the underside of the pedestal cap. Bolted at each end this method is a good way to secure your vase to the pedestal.

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CAST STONE GARDEN WATERFEATURES

For an overview on care and maintenance of your new garden ornament please see the GENERAL INFORMATION, CARE & MAINTENANCE OF CAST STONE instructions as supplied.

With any waterfeature it is always a good idea to use a specialist waterfeature contractor to install your new garden feature. A professional waterfeature installer will be able to offer you ongoing advice on which aquatic plants to choose, fish and pond life and how to keep your pond healthy and thriving.

Tips.....

- Keep an eye on your water level and top up as required, this will ensure you always have a good volume of water through your fountain head or blade.
- Clear your pond water of leaf and debris and check your pump filters on a regular basis as debris can inhibit the flow of water to your fountain head or blade.
- Clean out the waterfeature in the early spring, before your water garden completely awakens from its winter dormancy.
- At the end of the season and before frost and ice appear, drain your waterfeature down and disconnect your pump for the winter. **Fountain bowls although frost proof should be emptied completely of water before any risk of hard freezing.**

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GARDEN BENCHES

When lifting your new garden bench to its final location, care should be taken that you can achieve your move safely. For an overview on handling your new garden ornament please see the **GENERAL INFORMATION, CARE & MAINTENANCE OF CAST STONE** instructions as supplied.

BENCH ASSEMBLY

- With all of our garden benches you will need to establish a level base for the bench as a whole or for each bench foot. A local contractor maybe able to assist you in this. The base will need to be solid and firm enough to carry the weight of the bench and those who sit on it. With our modern range of benches the underside has indentations for the legs to slot in to. These also indicate the distances required for each leg.
- Once you have the legs in place and ready, the top of the bench can be placed to position. As all of our products are handmade, the bench top may not be level once placed on the legs; however, this can be simply rectified by using some grouting mixture to alter the level of the bench top, so that it sits firmly without movement.
- If you think you might want to move your bench in the future, then you might consider using 6mm wooden wedges to place between the bench top and legs.

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