



Caring for your stone

Foras Stone is ideally suited to the British climate and will withstand heat, snow, frost and ice. We have created a maintenance help sheet to ensure that you can enjoy your water feature, birdbath or bench for many years, all year round.

This guide is based on experience gathered over the last ten years from our show garden, over this period we have experienced temperatures from + 34 to -15 degrees Celsius.

If you have a Foras water feature, please pay particular attention to our tips on caring for your pump.

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Winter Care

Pre-winter maintenance

We would recommend cleaning the feature prior to overwintering;

Remove any debris from inside the water feature including leaves from around the pump inlet. This will ensure the water is circulating at the correct rate.

- Ideally vacuum out the reservoir via the access hatch to remove debris and grit which may have built up over the season using a suitable pond vacuum. Clean the filter housing on the pump.
- Top up the reservoir with fresh water.

During winter

Under normal conditions we would recommend leaving your water feature running continually, however winter care is dependent on two factors:

- **Weather conditions such as long periods of frosty weather**
- **Water feature size**

Weather Conditions

We recommend watching the weather forecast, the odd night frost will not affect the water feature as long as the day time temperature is above freezing. However, if the forecast is for a long spell of cold weather there are two options:

Option 1: If the power cable for the pump is not buried, remove the pump from the feature by disconnecting the hose. Dry and store inside over the winter months. Allow water to drain out of the feature back into the reservoir.

Option 2: If the power cable for the pump has been buried and cannot be removed run the feature through a cold snap ensuring the reservoir is topped up during this period. Smaller reservoirs may require more regular topping up.

In the event of the pump being switched off and not removed, continue running the sump as recommended. Please ensure that the pump is in as deeper water as possible to prevent ice damage (e.g. the pump remains under the ice cap to avoid being frozen solid).

Water Feature Size

Large water features (over 50cm diameter)

These will normally run even during sustained cold periods due to the speed and volume of water movement. Ice will build up on the stone over several night frosts but the reservoir will have enough water to continue to pump water. Ice will not damage the stone feature. The pump **MUST NOT** run dry and so if build-up of ice on the stone removes all the water from the reservoir then the pump should be switched off until the frosty period has passed. If the pump is switched off it should be left in the bottom of the reservoir and filled with fresh water so the pump is fully submerged and protected from the ice. When the cold period has passed, the pump can be switched on again.

Small water feature (below 50cm diameter)

The Belmont 30cm, 40cm and 50cm have a large surface area and so the build-up of ice is more rapid. The ice will not damage the stone however as the ice starts to build up a close eye should be kept on the forecast. The pump must not run out of water so switch off the pump if the cold weather persists and fill the reservoir with fresh water so the pump is protected from ice.

Summer Care

Maintenance

Keep the reservoir topped up to prevent the pump running dry and/or algae building up.

A maintenance chlorine level can be achieved by adding chlorine tablets/granules/liquid to the feature and or reservoir to prevent severe algae build up.

If during the summer months, the feature develops algae follow the cleaning instructions below.

Jet washing periodically will clean your water feature and revive colours.

Remove any debris from inside the water feature including leaves from around the pump inlet. This will ensure the water is circulating at the correct rate.

Cleaning

All our water features, including rainbow stone, can be jet washed, or scrubbed with a soft bristle brush and chlorinated without effecting colour or finish.

In hard water areas scale, can build up on the surface of the stone, jet washing can remove much of this.

If the scaling is severe please contact Foras for product information.

Pump Care and Warranty Information

Please note pumps are not completely fallible. Our care guide must be followed to ensure the pumps perform within the terms of the manufacturer warranty.

If the pump gets frozen or is run without water or becomes clogged with debris, it will not qualify within the terms of the warranty.

All the pumps supplied by Foras have a minimum 1-3-year warranty cover which is guaranteed by the pump manufacture and not Foras Stone Ltd. Please check the number of years your pump is covered for by referring to the terms and conditions already supplied by email prior to delivery. This warranty covers for all manufactures defects. Your pump warranty details can be found in the box your pump came in. Our water feature care program is based on our own experience from having a show garden full of water features, large and small. Foras Stone Ltd cannot be held responsible for any loss or damage occurred to pumps or stone in extreme weather conditions.

Please always keep the packaging and warranty information.

Cleaning Birdbaths and Stone Benches

All our stone products can be cleaned and returned to a new condition.

Stone can be discoloured with algae, black moulds or calcium deposits in hard water areas.

Regular maintenance is always the best way to prevent stone discolouration.

For Birdbaths: Once every 6 weeks.

Simply clean out the bird bath with fresh water and use a stiff brush to remove any dirt on the bottom of the bowl and any algae build up. Please note you can use a very mild solution of chlorine/bleach. Filling a plastic rose sprayer bottle with a **10ml -25ml capsule of chlorine and the remainder of the bottled filled with water.

Please only apply on a dry day where the solution can be left and the wind is minimal.

Although this is a very mild solution, please be mindful of nearby planting and soft landscaping.

Rinse the solution off with a hose pipe or watering can.

If discoloration has built up over a long period of time, you may use a jet washer to remove very stubborn stains.

To help remove green algae or black mould we recommend a chlorine solution. (Cleaning kits are available on our web site, <https://foras.co.uk/product/chlorine-cleaning-kit/>) This should be applied to the affected areas by following the instructions provided with the kit. We do recommend leaving on the solution longer for black mould and extreme build-up of algae.

When the stains are removed, thoroughly clean the bird bath bowl with clean water to remove any chlorine residue. Take care to protect your skin and clothes as chlorine is a very powerful bleach which could damage clothes, burn skin or damage any planting touching the stone.

For removal of calcium deposits we recommend using phosphoric acid. Phosphoric Acid is a fast acting chemical, very effective and not harmful to the stone. We are happy to raise an order with written instructions on application of this chemical.

For health and safety reasons and for the protection of the stone itself, we request you to send the images of the calcium build up in the first instance to sales@foras.co.uk.

For Stone Benches: Once a year

Please follow the same method recommended for birdbaths.

WARNING! Take advice before lifting heavy products or consult a specialist