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Protection and safety in your garden during winter by [Gabriel Ash](#)

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During winter weather conditions such as snow and frost, there is an increased risk of your plants and garden features being damaged. However, by taking time to ensure that your garden is protected and kept safe during winter, you can keep your plants and features at their best.

When frost or snow hits, you will need to ensure that your plants are sheltered and protected. Any tender plants will need to be moved to a heated greenhouse or a set of cold frames for extra protection. If your tender plants have already been damaged by frost, then move them to a sheltered area.

During winter, your garden features will also require extra care. Cold weather can cause damage to features such as ponds or fountains, so these will need extra attention when frost or snow arrives. Frozen ponds can not only be harmful to your fish and pond plants but can also damage your pond.

Those with a koi pond may wish to consider installing a pond heater to maintain a warmer temperature. Koi or fish pond temperatures can also be monitored using a thermometer. There are many temperature devices available that are suitable for use in ponds.

If your pond freezes over, then avoid smashing the ice, as this can harm your fish and cause damage to your pond. Place a kettle of boiling water on the ice instead to allow it to melt slowly. Boiling water will also help to melt ice on other water features, such as fountains.

In winter, any garden ornaments or tools will need to be stored away, as the frost may cause damage to them if they are left outside. Store ornaments such as gnomes in a garden shed, greenhouse or other storage area to keep them in good condition throughout the winter.

During winter, consider replacing or having your garden tools serviced. As winter is a time when less gardening work is done, you can use the extra time to ensure that your garden tools are kept in good condition and ready for use once spring arrives. Keep any tools that do not need replacing or servicing stored away to prevent them from becoming damaged by frost or snow.

To make your garden livelier during winter, consider adding bird feeders, a bird bath or a nestbox. This will help to provide any birds that visit your garden with food, water and shelter during winter. If your bird bath freezes over, then break the ice or melt it using boiling water.

When snow or frost hits your garden, there is an increased risk of accidents occurring. Take time to enhance the safety of your garden by making sure that any paths or steps in your front or back garden are cleared, as this will help to prevent them from becoming slippery. If heavy snowfall occurs, clear areas or objects such as garden gates and make sure that the glass panes of your greenhouse are kept clear.

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