

Embrace the Chill: Preparing Your Landscaping for Winter!

Krystal Lear, HR Coordinator

As the final leaves fall and a frosty enchantment blankets the world, it's time to shift our focus from vibrant blooms to winter readiness. Here are some essential tips and insights to ensure your outdoor haven remains both resilient and charming throughout the colder months.

Tending to the Greenery: Before the snowflakes start their dance, give your plants some extra TLC. Trim back perennials, shrubs, and ornamental grasses to prevent snow accumulation from weighing them down. By giving them a tidy haircut, you're ensuring healthier growth come springtime.

Fall Cleanup: Bid farewell to the fallen leaves and debris of autumn. A thorough fall cleanup not only keeps your landscape looking pristine but also prevents potential diseases from overwintering in dead plant material. Rake up those leaves, clear out garden beds, and put your landscape to bed in style.

Mulching Magic: Spread a layer of mulch around the base of your plants to provide insulation against the harsh winter temperatures. Mulch helps regulate soil temperature, conserves moisture, and acts as a protective barrier for roots. It's like tucking your plants in with a cozy blanket!

Tree Time: Prune dead, damaged, or diseased branches from your trees to prevent them from becoming hazards during snowstorms. A well-pruned tree is more likely to withstand winter's challenges and burst forth with vitality when spring arrives.

Winter Watering: Don't forget to water your plants, especially evergreens, before the deep freeze settles in. Hydrated plants are more resilient in the face of winter stress. Just ensure you're watering early in the day to allow sufficient time for absorption before temperatures drop.

Snow and Ice Management: Be prepared for winter storms by having a plan in place for snow removal. Clear pathways, driveways, and patios promptly to prevent ice buildup and ensure safe passage through your winter wonderland.

Winter may be a time of dormancy, but your landscape doesn't have to hibernate entirely. By tending to its needs now, you're setting the stage for a breathtaking reawakening come spring.



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A Letter From The President

Strange parallels!!!

Happy September to everyone. It never ceases to amaze me how the world we live in is so reflective of the remarkable company we have built over the last 35 years. The difference is, as a private company, we must evolve or go out of business. I am not going to make this political, but whether you belong to the Republican, Democrat, Independent, Green, or Peace and Freedom party, we are all people and we are stronger together as one than we are divided.

Over the last three years, H&M has met some unbelievable challenges, many of which seemed daunting and unsolvable. When faced with these major issues, I always went back to the basics, leveraging the most powerful part of our company, our people. We don't always have the same opinions or resolutions, but we do have respect for each other. No matter how crazy a solution may be, we pride ourselves in allowing our people to be passionate about their feelings and share them with the team. At that point, we come together as an organization. We are not always 100 percent in agreement, but we take a vote on the ideas presented and once taken and a solution agreed upon, we form a united front and fight together as a team. We don't dwell on the past or the ideas that weren't chosen. We move forward and focus on the solution agreed to and the future. At the end of the day, the solutions we put in place allow us to push through any difficult situation we confront. It seems so simple, but for some reason we as a nation find it so difficult to embrace.

I want to leave you with one suggestion. Sometimes listening to others and engaging in a healthy debate regardless of whether it goes against your thought process or not can help you come to a common ground and in the end aid in making a better more informed collaborative decision. What the world needs now is not just love sweet love, but for people to have more respect for each other. Is it me or doesn't that seem so simple to embrace?

Mark Mazzurco, President

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Why, How, & When to Aerate Your Lawn

Dave Knaus, Director of Maintenance Operations

Aerating is a vital part of any good lawn maintenance program because it allows air and water to penetrate built up grass or lawn thatch. Aeration is the practice of perforating the soil with small uniform holes to allow nutrients, air and water to reach the grass roots. This will allow the roots to grow deeper and stronger, helping you to achieve a beautiful lawn. The main reason for aerating is to alleviate soil compaction. A lawn or turf area that is too compacted will not allow proper air circulation, water, or nutrients within the soil. There are two main tools to aerate a turf area with – a spike aerator and a plug aerator. With a spike aerator you simply use the tool to poke holes into the ground with a solid tine, or fork. Plug aerators remove a core or plug of grass and soil from the lawn. For the best results, use an aerating tool or machine that actually removes plugs of soil. You will need an aerating tool that removes soil plugs around 2-3 inches deep. The best time for aeration is during the growing season, when the grass can heal itself. One of the best times is fall when it is cool and moist. This gives your lawn or turf area the best shot at thriving throughout the season.

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Did you know?

Fall cleanups aren't just for leaves? It's like nature's version of "spring cleaning" before the cold sets in! While you're raking up those leaves like a pro, you're also helping your lawn breathe and absorb sunlight, giving it a fighting chance to show off its lush green self come spring.

Outdoor Kitchens

Mark Barker, VP of Sales

Installing an outdoor kitchen in your patio can be a game-changer, offering a plethora of benefits that enhance your lifestyle and elevate your outdoor living experience. Here are some justifiable reasons to consider installing an outdoor kitchen in your patio:

1. **Expanding Living Space:** An outdoor kitchen effectively extends your living space, creating a functional and inviting area for cooking, dining, and entertaining. It transforms your patio into a versatile outdoor oasis that can be enjoyed year-round.
2. **Enhancing Entertainment:** Outdoor kitchens are perfect for hosting gatherings and parties. You can entertain guests while preparing meals, fostering a more interactive and enjoyable social experience.
3. **Embracing Nature:** Cooking and dining outdoors allow you to connect with nature and enjoy the fresh air and beautiful scenery. It provides a refreshing change from indoor cooking and dining routines.
4. **Versatile Cooking Options:** With a well-equipped outdoor kitchen, you can expand your culinary horizons. From grilling mouthwatering steaks and burgers to baking pizzas in a wood-fired oven, the options are limitless.

An outdoor kitchen in your patio opens up a world of possibilities for enjoyable outdoor living, from culinary adventures to social gatherings. It's a worthwhile investment that brings together practicality, comfort, and a deeper connection with nature right in your own backyard.

Water Feature Care for the Upcoming Seasons

Brian Franko, Construction Supervisor

Soon the leaves begin to change colors, and the air will carry a hint of crispness, and we find ourselves transitioning into the beautiful fall season. And, as the winter season approaches, it's time to prepare our beloved water features for the colder months. In this article we share essential tips and insights on safely shutting down and winterizing your water features to ensure their longevity and proper functioning.

Fall and winter present unique opportunities to embrace the charm of water features in your outdoor spaces. With thoughtful preparations, your water features can continue to captivate and inspire even during the colder months. With the changing weather, it's essential to prepare your water features for the upcoming season. Our team of experts are ready to assist you with proper fall maintenance, ensuring that your ponds, fountains, and waterfalls are well-prepared to withstand the colder temperatures.

Fall offers an opportunity to incorporate seasonal plants and blooms around your water features. We can help you select frost-resistant varieties that will add a burst of color and life to your landscape, complementing the allure of your water elements.

Proper winterization is crucial to protect your water features during the colder months. Our team will take care of the necessary steps to ensure your ponds, fountains, and waterfalls remain in excellent condition, ready to enchant you when spring returns.

We are committed to helping you enjoy the beauty and tranquility of water features all year round. Whether it's fall preparations or winter pond shutdowns, our team is here to make your outdoor dreams come true.

People Serving People

Look at these beautiful works of art! These pictures are proof of our motto: People serving people to enhance everyday living.

