

Garden Take Down



At the end of the growing season, ensure that your garden equipment is stored properly to prolong its life. You will want to take special precautions to store your cart, light and self-watering containers.

Growing Containers

In order to prolong the usefulness of your trays and self-watering containers, it is recommended that you carefully dismantle and clean your containers at the end of the growing season. Granted this can be messy and time consuming, but its very important!

Wait until all plants and soil have dried out prior to dismantling. You can compost your used potting soil and plants outdoors. **DO NOT** reuse potting soil in the your indoor growing containers - it must be refreshed year after year in order to prevent disease issues. Some teachers have experienced the frustrating effects of soil-borne disease by simply not completing this step. Wash off all soil then sterilize your equipment prior to storing it. You will want to sterilize your growing containers again prior to reuse next year.

Carts

You can store your cart assembled if you have the space for it. You can use the cart to store your lights and growing equipment for the next year. You may choose to drape your cart with a plastic or fabric covering to limit dust accumulation.

Lights

You may unhook your grow light from its hanging location and store. If you have a cart, you can store it on a shelf in your cart. You do not need to dismantle your lighting unit at the end of the year. You will want to unplug your light and cover your lighting unit to protect from dust. You can wrap your light in clear plastic, fabric or even a garbage bag. Protecting from accumulating dust will prolong the life of your equipment.



Remember to Sterilize Equipment

It is very important to wash off your growing containers and sterilize prior to storing for your off season. At the start of next season, remember to sterilize again. Keeping proper care of your equipment will decrease the likelihood of disease in your garden!

To sterilize, either:

- Soak in a 10% bleach solution (or other school approved sterilizer) for 15 minutes, air dry.
- Wash or spray a 25% bleach solution (or other school approved sterilizer), air dry.