

Crystal Palace Terrarium Fact Sheet - by G McGinn of Durham, NC 2/2016

Safety:

- (A) My **Crystal Palace – 2** is constructed using lead came (the metal between the glass segments) and lead based solder (60/40). Thus
 - The terrarium is not a toy and should not be handled by children.
 - When moving, lifting or cleaning you should wash your hands with soap and a hand brush prior to eating.
- (B) The terrarium weighs about 15 lbs. empty, perhaps 17 lbs. when your garden is in place. You should **NEVER** lift or move your terrarium by grasping any of the glass surfaces. Your **Crystal Palace** rests on six small legs which raise the metal base about 1/2” off the surface. This allows you to place your fingers under the base and lift the terrarium by the metal base designed to support the terrariums total weight.
- (C) The base is solid metal but I cannot guarantee it’s watertight. So if your terrarium is on a fine wood surface I suggest a pad under it.
- (D) The top of your **Crystal Palace** is **removable** (the main difference from the original design). Grasp the brass knobs attached to the sides of the top to remove, never lift the top by the top finial decorations.

Design:

My terrarium design is based on plans by Richard Scowen in the book “Stained Glass” by Marc Gerstein and Lynette Wrigley - Owl Books 1995 with modifications to for a more durable and easier to maintenance garden.

- (A) The base is solid metal with 2 steel reinforcement bars soldered to it. The lower perimeter lead came, that supports the glass walls, is soldered to the metal base for a **very durable and rigid design**.
- (B) There are six small wood legs attached to the base that lift it off the surface allowing your fingers to lift from the rigid metal base.
- (C) **Note:** When removing or reinserting the 2” deep plastic tray it must be lowered or raised with one of the short ends a little higher than the other to fit through the length of the opening.
- (D) Always grasp the brass knobs attached to the short sides of the top to remove it. **Never remove the top by holding the finial decoration.**
- (E) The interior volume is about 0.88 cu ft.
- (F) I sign all my terrariums with my initials **GAM** and the construction date, as **mm/yy**, on a lead strip near the flat part of the top.

Glass cleaning:

The outer clear glass panels should be cleaned with a liquid cleaner (Windex) applied to a little soft cloth using only soft pressure.