



# How to Winterize Drinking Post Waterers

Occasional maintenance and lubrication will ensure optimum operating conditions on Drinking Post Waterers.

## ADJUSTING THE PADDLE

Due to seasonal temperature swings, you may choose to occasionally check and possibly adjust the paddle set screw to relieve tension during material contraction due to colder weather.

There should be a little bit of 'play' in the paddle – Meaning when you physically hold the paddle, it should loosely wiggle up and down and side to side a bit. If you find this is not the case, simply unscrew the paddle set screw until there is a little bit of 'play'.

The expectation is that you may slightly loosen this screw in the winter and tighten it a bit in the summer. Or you may find that they never need adjusting.

## LUBRICATING THE MOVING PARTS

If you find that after a long cold night of the Drinking Post Waterer sitting unused it is more difficult than usual to depress the paddle, lubricating the paddle hinges and activation rod will typically remedy this issue.

When the paddle is depressed only the paddle, activation rod and valve seal move. Because there are only three moving parts, keeping them lubricated is quick and easy.

To lubricate the waterer you will need:

- Phillips head screwdriver
- Pliers
- Petroleum Jelly (Vaseline)
- Three minutes of your time

1. Remove the four screws holding down the paddle and remove the paddle.
2. You will be looking at the very tip of the 3/16" Stainless Steel activating rod. This rod runs the length of your waterer (likely 5' to 9' long). Grab the tip of the rod with your pliers and pull the entire rod out of the waterer.
3. Apply a **LIGHT** coat of petroleum jelly to the top half of the rod.
4. Lower the rod back into the waterer. **DO NOT DROP THE ROD. Dropping the rod instead of gently lowering it back into place could potentially cause damage.** When the rod reaches the bottom point, gently push and twist the rod to ensure it is properly seated. The rod should appear exactly as it did when you started.
5. Apply petroleum jelly to the seat of the paddle hinges.
6. Replace the paddle. Lubricate moving parts where paddle connects to the bowl.

❖ **PLEASE NOTE:** If you know you are going to experience freezing rain conditions, you may choose to proactively lubricate around paddle hinges moving parts while the paddle is installed. (Prior to the freezing rain, of course)