

Plant Care

This is a very general guide to get you started. Different types of plants have very different needs and if you want to widen your knowledge there are loads of excellent books out there on plant care. We stock a few, so have a look in our online shop if you're inspired to become a bit of an expert!

Succulents & Cacti

- Happy at room temperature, can tolerate heat but prefer not to get cold
- As much natural light as possible
- Water from the base and mist occasionally

Tip : Allow soil to dry out between watering

Orchids

- Prefer a warm room, ideally 20°C and above
- Bright natural light, but keep out of direct sunlight
- Water from the base. Do not allow plant to sit in water, drain well after watering.

Tip : When flowers die back, keep the leaves healthy and it will flower again.

Ferns

- Happy at room temperature, don't like it below 10°C
- Prefer shade, but do need natural light
- Regular watering required, keep the soil moist. Likes humid air, mist regularly.

Tip : Brown frond (leaf) tips indicate it needs watered more often. Remove broken and brown tips from the base.

Flowering Plants

- Average room temp
- Prefers bright light and a sunny spot
- Regular watering and feed whilst flowering

Tip : nip out/dead-head wilting flowers to encourage new flowers.

String of hearts and pearls

- Average room temp (min 8°C)
- Filtered light, not direct
- Keep moist but not wet, waterlogged soil will kill them.

Tip : Grows well on a bathroom shelf or windowsill.

Foliage plants

- Average room temp
- Good light, not direct. Variegated plants require brighter light
- Keep moist but not wet. Likes humid air, mist regularly

Tip: Regularly clean leaves gently with a damp cloth, helps the plants thrive

General care tips

- **Warning signs you are over-watering** – Flowers turn mouldy. Leaves curl, yellow and wilt. Young leaves fall first.
- **Warning signs you are under-watering** – Flowers fall and fade quickly. Leaves are limp and wilted. Leaf tips turn brown and crisp.
- **Watering from base** – Fill a sink, bowl or basin with 5cms- 8cms of water, depending on the size of the plant. For mini succulents and cacti a small plate may be big enough. Place the plant in the water for an hour or so and allow it to soak up the water. Remove for the water and allow the plant to drain for 5 minutes before returning to its pot.
- **Pot size** – Plants in smaller pots dry out faster than plants in larger ones.
- **Feeding** – Once a plant has flowered a few times or you've had it for over a year it will have used up all the nutrients available from the soil in its pot. At this point you may consider feeding with a liquid flower feed or repotting your plant into a bigger pot with new, nutrient rich compost.
- **Plant placement** – This is trial and error. If a plant looks unhealthy although all its watering requirements are met, try moving it to a warmer or cooler room or try placing in a window with a different aspect. Grouping plants together increases humidity.
- **Pots with no drainage** – Terrariums and ceramic pots are popular, where the plants are potted directly into the main vessel. Although a layer of stones will be in the base to help prevent the soil becoming water-logged it is very important to water these arrangements sparingly and only when the top layer of soil feels dry to the touch. Misting may be enough rather than watering.