



Houseplant Care Instructions

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When choosing a houseplant, first determine what type of light you have. Make sure the area gets enough light. Does the light change throughout the day, or does the light change with the seasons?

Types of Light

- **High Light- Full sun**, direct sunlight for 3 to 6 hours or **bright light** indirect sunlight for 6 to 8 hours a day
- **Medium Light- Full sun**, direct morning sunlight for 2 to 4 hours or **bright light**, indirect sunlight 4 to 6 hours or 12 to 16 hours of artificial light (office).
- **Low Light- Diffused light**, indirect sunlight for more than 3 to 4 hours
- **No Light- Diffused, indirect light** 3 hours or less, full shade.
- ***TIP-** If you can read this paper in the location where the plant will be *without* turning on a light, it is a **low light** location. If you have to turn on a light to read, then it is considered a **no light** location.

Temperature

Nearly all tropical plants will flourish if the temperature is kept within the range of 55 to 75 degrees Fahrenheit. Most houseplants will grow quite happily in rooms that are a little too cool for human comfort. There are exceptions to the rule, however: many flowering plants, and some foliage houseplants need much cooler conditions with a maximum night temperature of 60 degrees Fahrenheit.

Humidity

Tropical houseplants require adequate humidity, especially in the winter months, when the air is particularly dry. Create an aura of humidity around the plant by placing the plant on a pebble tray or saucer that is four inches or larger than the base of the pot, and fill it with gravel and water. Make sure the plant doesn't sit in the water, however. Misting the underside of the leaves will also help.

Watering

- **Dry in winter plants-** Desert cacti and other succulents should be treated as moist/dry plants during the active growth season from spring to fall. During the winter, compost should be allowed to dry out completely
- **Moist/dry plants- Most houseplants belong in this group.** Water thoroughly and allow the top third of the soil to dry each time between watering. This drying out of the surface is especially important during the resting period from fall till mid-spring. During the summer months, the soil may dry out faster
- **Moist at all times plants-** Most flowering plants belong in this group. The soil is kept moist, but not wet, at all times. Water thoroughly, when the soil surface becomes dry, but not so frequently as to keep the soil permanently saturated. There is no rule for which plant belongs in this group, so do some research on your plant in any plant book for its individual needs.



- **Wet at all times plants**- Very few plants belong in this group. Mostly water plants like Papyrus and Rushes. Water thoroughly and frequently enough to keep the soil wet, without drying out. Azaleas and Peace Lilies belong in this group
- ***Tip***- Roots need air as well as water, which means that the soil should be moist, but not saturated. **Do not let the roots/pot sit in water for more than a couple of hours. Drain excess water from the tray**

Fertilizer

Feed with a 20-20-20 all-purpose fertilizer, at half strength about every other watering to once a month. Do this less often in the winter, when the days are shorter. These figures can change depending on the location of the plant, the type of pot, the type of soil the plant is in, the time of year, and weather conditions. Plants don't need as much moisture on gray days as they do on sunny days. It's best to "feel" the soil to determine moisture content, or use a moisture meter.

Repotting

Our plants are in pots that are the right size for that plant at this time. The only reason you should transplant your plant is **if it is drying out too fast for your watering schedule** or if the pot is cracked by the roots' expansion. If so, now is the time to go to **one size** bigger pot (2" larger in diameter at the most). **Do not repot unless you have to.**

No Light	Low Light	Medium Light	High Light
Aspidistra	Aglaonema	Anthurium	Aralea
Maranta spp	Cordyline	Begonia spp	Asparagus Fern
Pleomele	Dracaena marginata	Calathea	Bird of Paradise
Sansevieria	Dracaena massangeana	Dieffenbachia	Boston Fern
Pothos	Dracaena warneckii	Dracaena lemon/lime	Bougainvillea
Zam Zam Plant	Peperomia spp	Fatsia	Bromeliads
Philodendron spp	Philodendron spp	Ferns (some types)	Cacti & succulents
Hedera Ivy	Syngonium spp	Cissus Ivy	Citrus
Ferns & Moss	Hoya Ivy	Norfolk Island Pine	Codaem (Croton)
	Palms	Arboricola	Ficus spp
	Spathiphyllum	Ficus Elastica (Rubber Tree)	Hibiscus
	Pothos	Philodendron spp	Schefflera
		Christmas Cactus	Yucca
		Peperomia spp	
		Radermachera (China Doll)	

Our houseplants have a 45 day return opportunity with your receipt (bonsai and discounted items not included). This return opportunity is voided if the plant is repotted by anyone other than our houseplant personnel.