

# House Plants



**Finding the right place** to set house plants does not have to be difficult. There are three things to keep in mind: first, south-facing windows get more light than north-facing ones; second, plants with brightly coloured foliage need more light; and third, never put a plant where you can't read the newspaper without the light on.

**To ensure even growth** give the pot a half-turn every two days. Foliage automatically bends toward the light.

**Avoid stressing plants** by keeping their climate steady. Sudden changes in temperature, light or watering levels can cause droopy leaves, increased susceptibility to pests and diseases, and bud drop in flowering plants. Moving a plant from a shady to a sunny spot can result in foliage burn.

**Do not repot too quickly.** Repotting a house plant that is not ready can encourage the plant to put its energy into root development instead of into producing flowers and foliage.

**Do not overheat** the plants. The ideal temperature for houseplants is between 13°C - 21°C. It is better to err on being too cool than too warm.

**Keeping plants beautiful** does not have to be difficult. Here are a few things that may be helpful to remember. Remove faded flowers, bare stems and dried leaves regularly. When trimming brown stem tips, take care not to cut into the live plant tissue since this will cause further damage.

Also, do not use wax or shine products. They may give the plant a lustrous appearance but they may clog plant pores. They may also make the plant look artificial instead of promoting a healthy, natural glow. A good way to wash away dust, smoke and other residues is by giving the plant a lukewarm shower.

Dirt on fuzzy or prickly leaves may be removed with a hair dryer that is set on cool or low.



**Watering** houseplants can oftentimes be a confusing exercise. Oftentimes over-watering is the reason houseplants die. The following tips may help you, but if possible, always refer to the care tag that came with the plant to attend to its specific watering needs. Use room temperature water. Water and feed more during active growing periods. Water less and do not

feed during resting/dormant periods. Do not feed a sick plant. Do not water fuzzy leaves. Remember that shiny - leaved plants love to be misted.

**Diagnosing sick plants** - a few general rules:

**Over watered** - brown leaf tips, yellowing stems, rot

**Lack of light** - leggy, old leaves dropping off, new leaves small, no blooms

**Too much sun** - brown leaf edges

**Bud drop** - low light, low temperature, lack of fertilizer

**Yellowing** - low light, high night temperature, over watered

**No blooms** - low light, high night temperature, lack of fertilizer