

General House Plant Care

Temperature: Most house plants grow at their best between temperatures of 15-24C (60-75F). When temperatures rise above this, you can help your plant cope with the heat by misting the leaves with a spray bottle and/or sitting the pot on a tray or saucer filled with wet gravel – the water will evaporate, creating a mini micro-climate around your plant. Make sure to re-wet the gravel regularly.

Placement: It is best to keep house plants away from open fire places, cold draughts and radiators – did you know that a centrally heated home in winter has a drier atmosphere than the Sahara Desert?! However, low temperatures are more of a problem than higher temperatures, especially when too much water is also provided.

Lighting: Most house plants do not like full sun and will quickly deteriorate if they receive too much direct sunlight. The only plants that enjoy full summer sun are cacti and succulents – a south facing window is best for these plants. Most house plants, especially flowering types perform best in bright conditions without direct sunlight. The best place for this is a south facing window; with the plant set back a few feet from the window to avoid the heat of the midday sun. East and west facing windows are also suitable if the window is large enough to allow plenty of daylight, but again, set back from the window to avoid midday heat.

Watering: For most house plants it is best to add water directly to the compost. Remove from decorative pots and sit in a draining board. Use tepid water as most dislike being shocked with cold water. Push the leaves aside and add water for several seconds until it runs out the bottom of the container. Water regularly during the growing season from spring to autumn. During winter allow the top inch of compost to become dry before watering again. Some plants prefer to have their pots sat in a bowl/ sink of water to just below the compost surface level. When the surface is glistening the pots are removed and allowed to drain before placing back in decorative pots. Tap water is fine for most, but some plants are best watered with rain water or distilled water. See individual listings inside for the best watering method for your plant.

When to water: Overwatering is the biggest cause of house plant problems. The simplest way to check if most plants need watering is to place the tip of a finger about 1 inch into the soil from the top. If it's still dry at the tip of the finger, then water. Plants often need more water when they are blooming and growing. Adjust your watering accordingly to prevent root rot.

Repotting: Spring is generally the best time to repot house plants, but is usually only needed when roots have fully filled the pot – growing through the drainage holes, or pushing the plant up out of its pot.

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House Plants Guide

Keeping your house plants happy

On Arrival

Your house plant has been sent ready for the season ahead. No need for potting on, simply remove packaging and place the pot into a decorative pot of your choice.

If supplied to you during the winter months there is no need for feeding until spring. If supplied through spring to autumn, you can start to feed 3-4 weeks after arrival, as the compost already contains plenty of goodness to give your plant a good start.

Use this guide to keep your plant in top condition.



TOP TIP:

Give your house plants a summer holiday! On warm summer days you can move your plants to a sunny spot outside. Even on a grey warm day, a summer rain shower will do wonders for cleaning dust off of large leaves.

Product Description	Temperature	Light	Watering	Humidity
Aglaonema	Warm in summer - minimum 16°C in winter.	Semi-shade or bright light. Keep well away from direct sunlight.	Water sparingly in winter. Water thoroughly through rest of year.	Mist leaves regularly. Surround pot with damp gravel.
Aloe Vera	Average room temp. Keep cool in winter, 10°C-13°C is ideal.	As much light as possible, but shade from hot summer sun.	Water moderately from spring to autumn, letting compost dry out slightly between waterings. In winter only water every 1-2 months.	No need to mist the leaves. Provide fresh air in summer - keep by an open window.
Anthurium	Average room temp - minimum 16°C in winter.	Bright in winter - protect from summer sun.	Give a little water every few days to keep compost moist at all times.	Mist leaves regularly.
Aspidistra (Cast Iron Plant)	Average room temp. Keep cool but frost-free in winter.	Extremely tolerant of most light levels, but keep out of direct sun.	Water regularly from spring to autumn. Water sparingly in winter.	Copes with dry air, but wash leaves occasionally.
Azalea	Keep cool - 10 - 15°C is ideal.	Brightly lit spot away from direct sunlight.	Keep compost wet at all times, ideally using rain water of distilled water.	Mist leaves daily during flowering season.
Bonsai	Average room temp.	Most types require a brightly lit spot away from direct sunlight and protected from hot summer sun.	Compost must be kept moist at all times. Daily watering may be needed in summer - use rainwater or tepid tap water. Sit pot in water to absorb from below.	Moist air is vital. Stand the pot on a gravel tray and mist leaves occasionally.
Bromeliad	High temperatures (above 24°C) may be required to bring plants into flower, but Average room temp (minimum 10 °C) is satisfactory for foliage types or plants in flower.	Brightly lit spot away from direct sunlight.	Water the compost only when it dries out, ideally with rain water or distilled water. Add water to the deep leaf axils when watering.	Mist leaves in summer. Occasionally use dilute liquid fertiliser instead of water.

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Cactus	Average room temp. Keep cool in winter, 10°C-13°C is ideal.	Choose the sunniest spot available, especially in winter. Some shading may be needed in the hottest months.	Water regularly in spring-late summer but allow compost to dry slightly between waterings. Use tepid water. In late summer give less water and after mid autumn keep almost dry until spring - just enough water to prevent shrivelling.	No need to mist the leaves. Provide fresh air in summer - keep by an open window.
Calatheas	Average room temp - sudden fluctuations can harm delicate varieties. Maintain 16°C minimum winter temperature.	Partial shade out of direct sunlight.	Water sparingly in winter. Water thoroughly through rest of year. Use distilled, tepid water.	Mist leaves regularly.
Chlorophytum (Spider Plant)	Average room temp - minimum 7°C in winter.	A well-lit spot away from direct sunlight.	Water sparingly in winter. Water thoroughly through rest of year.	Mist leaves occasionally in summer.
Codiaeum (Croton)	Average room temp - minimum 16°C in winter.	An east- or west-facing windowsill is ideal.	Water sparingly in winter. Water thoroughly through rest of year.	Mist leaves regularly - daily if possible. Wash leaves frequently.
Cordyline	Average room temp - minimum 13°C in winter.	Light shade is the best general position - close to an east or west window is an ideal spot.	Water sparingly in winter. Water thoroughly through rest of year.	Mist leaves regularly.
Crassula	Cool or Average room temp - minimum 7°C in winter.	Brightly lit spot with some direct sun.	Water sparingly in winter. Water thoroughly through rest of year but allow compost to dry slightly between waterings.	Misting is not necessary .
Cyclamen	Cool - 10°-16° C is ideal.	Bright light away from direct sunlight.	Keep compost moist at all times. Sit pot in water to absorb from below.	Stand pot on a gravel tray. Occasionally mist.

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Devil's Ivy	Average room temp - minimum 10°C-13°C in winter.	Brightly lit spot away from direct sunlight. Variegation will fade in poor light.	Water sparingly in winter. Water thoroughly through rest of year. Let compost dry out slightly between waterings.	Mist leaves regularly.
Dionaea Muscipula (Venus Fly Trap)	Average room temp - minimum 16°C in winter.	Bright light away from direct sunlight.	Keep compost moist at all times. Use rain water or distilled water.	Stand pot on a gravel tray. Occasionally mist.
Dracaena	Average room temp - minimum 13°C in winter.	Light shade is the best general position - close to an east or west window is an ideal spot.	Water sparingly in winter. Water thoroughly through rest of year.	Mist leaves regularly.
Easter Cactus	Ideal temperature range is 13°C-21°C. During resting period keep at 10°C-13°C.	Brightly lit spot away from direct sunlight. Thrives on an east-facing windowsill.	Water thoroughly but let surface dry between waterings. Increase watering after resting period is over and buds begin to form for re-blooming.	Mist leaves regularly.
Ferns	Average room temp - cool but cold nights are desirable. The best temperatures range is 16°C-21°C - the minimum for most types is about 10°C and ferns may suffer at more than 24°C.	Brightly lit spot out of direct sun. An east-or north-facing windowsill is ideal.	Compost must be kept moist at all times and never allowed to dry out. This does not mean constantly soggy compost - water logging will lead to rotting. Reduce watering in winter.	Moist air is necessary for nearly all ferns.
Ficus (Rubber Plant)	Average room temp - minimum 13°C in winter.	Bright spot for tree types, partially shaded site for others .	Water sparingly in winter. Water thoroughly through rest of year. Let compost dry out slightly between waterings.	Mist leaves occasionally in summer (essential for trailing types).

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Ficus (Weeping Fig)	Average room temp - minimum 13°C in winter.	Bright spot for tree types, partially shaded site for others .	Water sparingly in winter. Water thoroughly through rest of year. Let compost dry out slightly between waterings.	Mist leaves occasionally in summer (essential for trailing types).
Gardenia	Average room temp - minimum 16°C in winter.	As much light as possible, but shade from hot summer sun.	Water sparingly in winter. Water thoroughly through rest of year. Use distilled, tepid water.	Mist leaves frequently.
Hibiscus	Average room temp - minimum 13°C in winter.	As much light as possible, but shade from hot summer sun.	Water sparingly in winter. Water thoroughly through rest of year.	Mist leaves occasionally.
Hydrangea	Average room temp - minimum 7°C in winter.	Brightly lit spot away from direct sunlight.	Water sparingly in winter. Water thoroughly through rest of year. Use rainwater if tap is hard.	Mist leaves occasionally
Jasmine	Average room temp - minimum 7°C in winter.	Brightly lit spot with some direct sun.	Keep compost moist at all times.	Mist leaves regularly.
Kalanchoe	Average room temp - minimum 10°C in winter.	East or west-facing windowsill from spring to autumn - a south-facing windowsill in winter.	Water thoroughly - let surface dry between waterings.	Misting is not necessary.
Miniature Rose	Average room temp - keep at 10°C-21°C during the growing season.	A sunny windowsill is ideal. A grow bulb may be required through winter for continual flowering.	Water liberally when indoors. Allow to dry out slightly between waterings.	Stand pot on a gravel tray if the room is warm. Mist leaves regularly.
Phalaenopsis Orchid	Day temperature of about 21°C in summer, 16°C in winter and drop at night of -12°C.	Bright light away from direct sunlight.	Keep compost moist with weekly watering through spring and summer reduce watering in winter. Use distilled, tepid water.	Mist leaves regularly.

Product Description	Temperature	Light	Watering	Humidity
Philodendron	Average room temp - minimum 13°C in winter.	Moderately bright spot out of direct sunlight.	Water sparingly in winter. Water thoroughly through rest of year.	Mist regularly in summer and in winter if room is heated.
Polyscias	Average room temp - minimum 13-16°C in winter.	Brightly lit spot away from direct sunlight. Will adapt to light shade.	Water sparingly in winter. Water moderately from spring to autumn.	Mist leaves regularly.
Sago Palm	Average room temp - minimum 10 °C in winter.	Semi-shade or bright light. Keep well away from direct sunlight.	Water sparingly in winter. Water thoroughly through rest of year.	Mist leaves if room is heated. Occasionally sponge mature leaves.
Sansevieria	Average room temp - minimum 10°C in winter.	Brightly light spot with some direct sun, but will grow in light shade.	Water moderately from spring to autumn, letting compost dry out slightly between waterings. In winter only water every 1-2 months. Avoid wetting the heart of the plant.	Misting is not necessary.
Sarracenia (Pitcher plant)	Average room temp - minimum 16°C in winter.	Bright light away from direct sunlight.	Keep compost moist at all times. Use rain water or distilled water.	Stand pot on a gravel tray. Occasionally mist.
Sedum	Average room temp from spring to autumn. Keep cool in winter, 10°C-13°C is ideal.	Brightly light spot with some direct sun. Some shade in summer may be necessary.	Water moderately from spring to autumn, letting compost dry out slightly between waterings. In winter only water every 1-2 months.	No need to mist the leaves. Provide fresh air in summer - keep by an open window.
Senecio	Average room temp - minimum 10°C in winter.	Brightly light spot with some direct sun in winter, but will grow in light shade.	Keep compost moist at all times - reduce watering in winter.	Mist leaves occasionally.

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Spathiphyllum (Peace Lily)	Average room temp - minimum 13°C-16°C in winter.	Semi - shade in summer - bright light in winter. Strong sunlight will damage the leaves.	Keep compost moist at all times - reduce watering in winter.	Mist leaves very frequently.
Stephanotis	Average room temp keep at 13°C-16°C in winter.	Brightly lit spot, away from direct sun in summer.	Water sparingly in winter. Water thoroughly through rest of year.	Mist leaves occasionally.
Strelitzia (Bird of Paradise)	Average room temp keep at 13°C-16°C in winter.	As much light as possible, but shade from hot sun.	Water sparingly in winter. Water thoroughly through rest of year, but allow compost to dry slightly between waterings.	Mist leaves occasionally.
Swiss Cheese Plant	Average room temp - minimum 10°C in winter. Active growth starts at 18°C.	Moderate brightness away from direct sun	Water sparingly in winter. Water thoroughly through rest of year.	Mist leaves if room is heated. Occasionally wash and polish mature leaves.
Tradescantia	Average room temp - minimum 7°-10°C in winter.	Brightly light spot with some direct sun. Some shade in summer may be necessary.	Water sparingly in winter. Water thoroughly through rest of year.	Mist leaves occasionally.
Yucca elephantipes	Average room temp - keep cool in winter (minimum 7°C).	Brightly lit spot, will cope with direct sun.	Water sparingly in winter. Water thoroughly through rest of year.	Misting is not necessary.
Zamioculcas zamiifolia	Average room temp - minimum 13°C in winter.	Brightly lit spot, will cope with some direct sun.	Water sparingly in winter. Water thoroughly through rest of year.	No need to mist the leaves.
Zantedeschia (Calla Lily)	Average room temp - minimum 13°C in winter.	Moderate brightness away from direct sun.	Water sparingly in winter. Water thoroughly through rest of year to keep compost moist at all times.	Mist leaves occasionally.