



## Top 3 Tips For Healthy & Happy Plants All Year Round

### Water Your Plants

When watering your indoor plants the key factor to be aware of is how much light your plants are receiving. Plants only use water in relation to light levels. Therefore, during shorter day periods your plants will use less water than during longer day periods.

The only true way to know how much water your plants require is to know how much moisture is in the soil. Check out our article called "How do I know when to water my plants?"

When it comes to watering indoor plants; more is not always better. Too much water or too frequent of watering can also invite molds or algae to form on plant stems and leaves; or on top of the soil.

## Watering Plants During Longer Days vs Shorter Days

A good habit is to back off on your watering routine as days become shorter.

During the short days of winter; indoor plants will require at least half as much water as during longer summer periods. Many succulents prefer to be dry over winter and will rot quickly if there is too much moisture in the soil. If you wait until the mid of winter to decrease your watering frequency your plants could already be suffering.

Yellowing of leaves can be a sign of underwatering, and of overwatering; therefore it is not a straightforward indication of what is going on in the soil with respect to moisture. When the days become longer; your watering routine should increase in frequency. If you wait until the mid-summer months to increase your watering frequency your plants could already be suffering.



## Watering Plants Safely

If possible; take your plants to the sink to water them. This will prevent water spillage on floors or other surfaces. This is even more important If using fertilizers. Fertilizers contain salts and salt residues can cause damage to surfaces.

It is always best to have a barrier between the bottom of the pot and your surface. The barrier should be completely waterproof and a material that does not conduct water. If the barrier also has 'feet' to keep it from solid contact with the surface; this is even better protection. Containers without drainage holes can still seep moisture or trap moisture underneath causing water stains on window sills or table tops.



## Use Fertilizer

Plants do need nutrients to stay healthy indoors. Fertilizing amounts will also depend on the length of daylight and exposure to light in your indoor spaces. If you continue to fertilize throughout the year; be mindful of 'less is better' over short days. All purpose general house plant fertilizers are the simplest to use and will give you good results.

## Trim the Plant Leaves

To keep indoor plants looking their best; a bit of trimming is often required. Most plants respond well to having their leaves trimmed. Depending on your preference you can either trim off portions of a leaf or remove a leaf completely. It is important to keep dead plant material cleared away and not left on top of the soil. Dead plant material attracts natural composters that could be nuisance in your home.