



Welcome to the amazing world of houseplants. Here at Oderings we provide one of the most extensive selections of house plants in New Zealand. There is something for everyone, from flamboyant and flowery to small and spikey. This is a general guide to get you started on your houseplant journey. Let's begin!



Watering

Houseplants can be killed with kindness, so be very cautious with how you water and how often. The soil should be kept evenly moist but not soaking wet. Water underneath the leaves, directly onto the soil to prevent burning of leaves and to stop diseases from forming. Always place your plant on a saucer or place inside another pot with no drainage to prevent water leaking and ruining furniture.

Feeding

Feed houseplants once a month with a liquid feed like Baby Bio or Thrive. Specimen plants can be top dressed with a long-term fertiliser like Total Replenish. Flowering houseplants should be fed fortnightly to encourage buds to form for a longer flowering period.

Flowering plant care

During flowering it is important to make sure your houseplant doesn't dry out, as this will cause the plant to drop its flowers. Feed it a liquid fertiliser every fortnight; we love the Baby Bio Shots. After flowering has finished, the old spent flowers should be removed and old flower stems cut back. This will encourage the plant to put its energy back into growth instead of producing seed.

General Maintenance

It is important to keep up with general maintenance of your houseplants to keep them looking as wonderful as when you brought them. Once a month trim back any yellow, old or damaged leaves, re-stake them if required, remove any weeds or mosses and remove old flowers. Large specimen plants may need a dust. Baby Bio Leaf Shine is great to use on foliage plants to bring back the sparkle to the leaves, leaving them looking fresh and new.

Re-potting

Re-potting needs to be done when your houseplant outgrows its pot or when your plant needs freshening up. Start by removing the plant from its pot and removing excess soil gently. With larger houseplants the root ball should then be carefully reduced by a quarter; a small hand fork can be useful for this job and an old knife for

where the roots are denser. Repot your houseplant to the same level it was previously using Oderings Potting & Basket Mix. Potting mix is a nice light soil and suits most houseplants. Orchids prefer a heavy bark mix with lots of drainage. Cactus and succulents prefer a light free-draining soil, adding pumice to the soil is quite helpful with these plants. When potting into a larger pot, don't go too large, as the plant will struggle and the correct watering becomes difficult. Stones can be added to the bottom of the pot to create better drainage.

Pests

The most common pests you may encounter with houseplants are aphids, mealy bug, thrips and mites. Keeping plants healthy and watered correctly can prevent these pests arriving. A few sprays with Confidor will remedy these problems if they arise. Always follow mixing rates carefully and follow all safety instructions stated on the bottle.

Diseases

Botrytis and powdery mildew are two common problems that may appear. By keeping plants evenly watered and not wetting the leaves you can prevent these diseases, but otherwise a spray with Yates Fungus Gun would be effective.

By following this guide to growing successful houseplants in your home you should have no problems. But please don't hesitate to ask any of our friendly staff who are on hand to answer any further questions.

Selection Ideas

Full sun lovers: Gerbera's, Cacti, Succulents, Yucca, Dracena

Filtered light: African violets, Streptocarpus, Begonias, Peace Lilies, Orchids

Low light options: Parlour Palms, Ferns, Philodendrons



What houseplant is right for me?

One of the most important points for growing happy and healthy indoor plants is placement in your home. Most houseplants prefer a temperature of 18°C, away from draughts and direct heat. Heat pumps can kill houseplants because even though they provide warmth they also suck the moisture from the air, so be careful when placing close to your heat pump.

By placing stones in a saucer of water beneath a plant you can create a bit of humidity for your plant. It is always best to think about where in your home you want a houseplant. Is it by a sunny window, in a bathroom with low light or maybe something to look pretty on your coffee table?

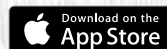
What do you want from your indoor specimen? Flowers, interesting foliage, easy care, air purification. These are things to think about when choosing a houseplant.



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A Starter's Guide to Houseplants

