

The Houseplant Survival Guide

Keep them alive, make them thrive

Most houseplants don't die from neglect — they die from love (overwatering). This guide covers the few things that actually matter: light, water, and not repotting out of boredom.

The only watering rule you need

- Check before you pour: finger 2 inches into the soil. Dry? Water. Damp? Wait.
- Water thoroughly until it runs out the drainage hole, then empty the saucer.
- Most deaths are root rot from soggy soil — when in doubt, underwater.

Match the plant to your light

- Bright indirect (near a window, no direct sun): pothos, monstera, philodendron.
- Low light tolerant: snake plant, ZZ plant, cast-iron plant.
- Needs real sun: succulents, cacti, fiddle-leaf fig (south/west window).

Keep them happy long-term

- Repot only when roots circle the pot or poke out the bottom — usually every 1-2 yrs.
- Feed diluted fertilizer monthly in spring/summer, none in winter.
- Wipe dust off leaves; rotate quarter-turn weekly so they grow evenly.

Insider glossary

Propagation — Growing a new plant from a cutting — node in water or soil.

Node — The bump on a stem where roots/leaves emerge; required for propagation.

Root rot — Mushy black roots from overwatering — the #1 killer.

Variiegation — White/yellow leaf patterning; needs more light to maintain.

Starter checklist

- Pots WITH drainage
- Well-draining potting mix
- Moisture meter or just your finger
- Watering can
- Liquid fertilizer (spring/summer)

For the obsessed: 'Sorry I Can't, My Plants Need Me' at 15d0.com/shop/houseplant/