

Care of Cut Flowers

Follow These Steps To Maximize Your Bouquet's Vase Life

- 1. Use a clean vase. If you wouldn't drink from it, don't put your flowers in it.
- 2. Cut 1/4 to 1/2" off of the stems using clean, sharp scissors just before putting your bouquet into the vase.
- 3. Add clean, cool water to the vase. Fill the vase with enough water to cover the stem ends plus one inch. <u>Do not</u> use softened water for flowers! Although not entirely necessary, you may add packaged flower food or make your own.
- 4. Change the water every 2-3 days. Trim the stems with each water change.
- 5. Keep the bouquet out of bright, direct light or a heater vent. Flowers will last longer when kept cool.
- 6. Place your bouquet away from ripening fruits and vegetables. These give off ethylene gas, which will cause the flowers to age rapidly.
- 7. Some components of a bouquet age faster than others. Simply remove them when they begin to decline.

Note: Some people are sensitive to the sap some flowers produce or the tiny hairs found along their stems. Wash your hands thoroughly after handling. Some flowers (e.g. lilies, foxglove) can be toxic to pets and people if eaten, so keep the bouquet out of the reach of pets and children.

Compost the remains if possible when the bouquet is finished

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